



Communique – AFA membership meeting 13-14 June 2019

AFA had its first membership meeting of 2019 in Adelaide, focussing on the theme of ‘safe and healthy ageing’.

Caroline Carroll and Lyn Langanke gave the presentation they use when educating aged care providers in Victoria about who are the Forgotten Australians, and what their issues are as many are facing the prospect of being re-institutionalised in aged care. So far, they have reached more than 3,000 providers face-to-face over the last 18 months.

Diana O’Neil, Project Co-ordinator from the South Australian *Helping Hand* initiative, briefed us about the project and the background to the publication *Real Care the Second Time Around*. She stressed the way in which Forgotten Australians from South Australia have been leaders in the project.

Drawing on themes which came up in these presentations, members developed the main points which AFA will use in its submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care.

We were pleased to again welcome senior managers from the Department of Social Services to answer questions and take part in the discussion. One of the matters of concern arising throughout the meeting was the urgent need for resourcing for face-to-face support for Forgotten Australians who live outside capital cities and for whom the option of telephone support is problematic, due to the sensitivity of the issues and potential for trauma as they apply for redress.

Members discussed an approach for the continuation of the ‘Unfinished business – still waiting for justice’ campaign. As a part of this campaign, AFA acknowledges that much has been achieved by governments since the Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants by the Prime Minister on 16 November 2009. However, AFA is deeply disappointed and angry that much has been left undone from the Senate Inquiry report of 2004, *Forgotten Australians*, and that contrary to the Inquiry’s report, and every report from every similar inquiry held internationally, the National Redress Scheme is confined to those who suffered sexual abuse and therefore creates two classes of survivors.