

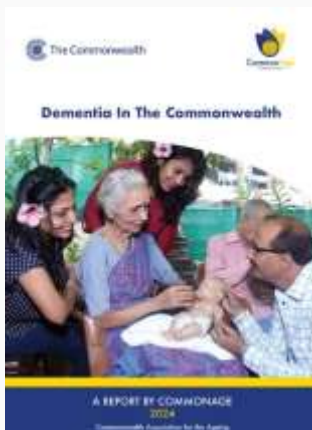
CommonAge Newsletter, Sept 2024



September marks the long-awaited launch of the 'Report on Dementia in the Commonwealth.' By 2030, Dementia will affect 75 million people globally, with a new case every three seconds. Nearly 40% of cases can be prevented, yet it remains the 7th leading cause of death. CommonAge is urging Commonwealth policymakers to prioritize Dementia as a major public health issue. Our report will be presented at the CHOGM meeting on 22nd October 2024 in Samoa.

Also in this issue, learn about our two new initiatives- 'Train the Trainer' and the launch of our 'Country Chapters,' both successfully launched in June in Durban, South Africa.

Launch of the Dementia in the Commonwealth Report



Our *Dementia in the Commonwealth* report was launched on 6th Sept at [the International Dementia Conference](#), Sydney, Australia and is now available to download from our website.

Believed to be the first report on dementia focussing on Commonwealth countries, this pivotal publication, delves into the current state of dementia care and support; it highlights disparities and challenges, best practices, and the urgent need for action to improve the lives of those affected by dementia.

[Download your copy here](#)

This report is essential reading for anyone involved in health policy, health, care and community development, service delivery and everyone who wants to find out what they can do for themselves, each other and their community.



Dr Emma Hodges, Report Project Manager, chief editor and author, says: "It is recognised that there are many competing priorities for governments, particularly for low and-middle-income countries, including water/sanitation, food distribution, climate change and education.

However, this report is a call to action for all stakeholders across the Commonwealth to come together and address the growing impact of dementia.

HammondCare Dementia Centre General Manager Angela Raguz says the report is a significant opportunity for the Commonwealth to share the expertise and resources that exist to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

"As the Commonwealth turns 75 years of age, this report challenges us to consider the realities for its citizens in their 70s with dementia. I am looking forward to the opportunities for The Dementia Centre to collaborate with the many contributors to this report across the Commonwealth." **#DementiaInTheCommonwealth**

Train the Trainer Programme at Durban, South Africa, June 10th – 24th, 2024



[Read The Full Report Here](#)

[Launch Video](#)

A first-time initiative, of a free training programme for those delivering elder care in developing countries was launched in Durban. With a special focus on ageing in Africa, the training programme aimed for enhanced elder care outcomes through international collaboration, emphasising knowledge sharing and capacity building.

This was a collaborative effort between CommonAge and TAFTA and conducted by Fulbright Scholar, **Dr Renu Abraham Varughese**. Twenty-eight delegates from three countries benefitted from this programme.

One of the programme's goals was for trainees to return and share their knowledge within their organisations, creating a ripple effect to elevate and enhance practices in the aged care sector, with a particular focus on dementia care.

CommonAge Country Chapters



[Read The Full Report Here](#)

[Launch Video](#)

Realising the importance of localized nodal bodies and structures for faster rollout and nimble logistical support, four country chapters of CommonAge—South Africa, India, Botswana, and Kenya—were launched in Durban, South Africa, on June 15th, 2024. This effort aims to further the cause, mission, and ethos of CommonAge. All the Chapter leads are pioneering this initiative in a voluntary capacity. They are working and collaborating to instigate initiatives and lobby their governments to ensure elders receive the care they deserve and are not left behind in policy making decisions.

DEMCON 24 - International Conference on “Reaching the Unreached in Dementia” Bangalore between November 29th – 30th, 2024



COMMONAGE @ DEMCON24

Conference

CommonAge has partnered with Dementia India Alliance who is organising the conference that is centered around the theme “Reaching the Unreached in Dementia Care” and will serve as a platform for stakeholders from various disciplines to converge and deliberate on innovative interventions, advances in the field, and experiences from diverse perspectives.

DemCon'24
International Conference
Bengaluru

**Dementia Care:
Reaching the Unreached**

9:00am - 5:00pm | 29th & 30th Nov
JN Tata Auditorium
Indian Institute
of Science

Invitation to CommonAge members to participate in this conference.

[Know more about the Registration Here](#)

Speakers Representing CommonAge



Andrew Larpent
Founder



Mansur Dalal
Chair



Femada Shamam
Vice Chair



SHARE, CONNECT, INSPIRE – JOIN OUR FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

Connect with fellow members, share experiences, and engage in meaningful discussions. This group is your opportunity to showcase your work and exchange insights. Our goal is to create a more inclusive community within CommonAge, where your voice matters, and your stories can inspire others.

[Click here to JOIN](#)

Spotlight on Members



Lynda Smith: Age Diversity and Becoming a Modern Elder

In this podcast, CEO of 50Plus-Skills Lynda Smith talks about retaining eldership, and challenging ageism through embracing generational intelligence in organisational learning and culture.

She was interviewed by David Maclean who is the owner of this podcast series called CO-CURIOUS. It is the go-to resource for academic and corporate learning professionals navigating the intersection of learning excellence and sustained financial success.

Podcast link: <https://iono.fm/e/1477400>



ACCPA Elevates Aged Care Sector with National Recognition Programmes

The Aged & Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) is committed to enhancing the profile of the aged care, retirement living, and seniors housing sectors through national recognition programmes for our members.

Aged Care Employee Day, celebrated annually on 7 August, is a key event for the aged care community. In 2024, the event marked its sixth year with overwhelming success. For more information: <https://www.accpa.asn.au/aged-care-employee-day-2023/>

Launched in September 2023, ACCPA's "You are ACE!" campaign celebrates those excelling in care for older Australians. Over 10 months, we received 460 nominations, showcasing inspiring stories of teamwork and dedication. Many of these heart-warming stories ranged from the exceptional teamwork of aged care workers during a bushfire evacuation to celebrating the dedication of aged care volunteers. For more information: <https://www.accpa.asn.au/ace/>

The ACCPA Excellence Awards, drawn from the strongest "You are ACE!" nominations, recognised 48 finalists, with 15 winners celebrated nationwide on Aged Care Employee Day. For more information: <https://www.accpa.asn.au/accpa-excellence-awards/>

Together, You are ACE! and the ACCPA Excellence Awards highlight the dedication and exceptional contributions made in the field of aged care. Through their hard work, these individuals have made a profound impact on the lives of the older Australians they serve.

These programs—Aged Care Employee Day, You are ACE!, and the ACCPA Excellence Awards—serve to recognize, express gratitude, and highlight best practices in the aged care sector.



TAFTA - HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Association for the Aged, Tafta, was established in 1958 with a vision to become “*leaders in innovative solutions for elders, inspiring a life worth living*”. Since then, the organisation has been dissolving the barriers surrounding ageing and creating avenues aligned to our purpose to **‘make dignity, growth and meaningful life a realistic prospect for all elders’**. Our recent highlights and achievements are a testament to this vision.

In 2022, we partnered with the Global Institute for Experienced Entrepreneurship to launch the Pilot Experience Incubator® (EI) Programme, which helped participants grow businesses, publish books, and create jobs within just one year.

In November 2022, we also launched a National Toll-Free Elder Abuse Helpline to raise awareness and offer support for older persons across South Africa.

Tafta finalised its Research Policy in October 2023 and launched its first in house research report on Elder Abuse. This report as well as the Pilot Experience Incubator® (EI) Programme was later shared by Tafta representatives at the ASASWEI (Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions) conference held in Durban.

Our accreditation with the United Nations Open Ended Working Group on Ageing and our membership with the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) positioned our organisation to be part of Global movements demonstrated by the Joint ‘Age with Rights’ Campaign with GAROP, sharing the petition for a United Nations convention on the Rights of Older People.

We ended the year commemorating our 65th anniversary through a celebration centred around voices, experiences and stories of the older people who journey with us – culminating in The Spectacular Sapphire Soiree event that cast a spotlight on active ageing and holding space for elders’ experiences.

Our 2024 Sawubona (I see you) Campaign aims to highlight older people, slowly dismantling the myths and stereotypes of ageism.

Our Tafta Conversation Cards fosters intergenerational dialogue, encouraging society to ‘see’ and appreciate the contributions of elders.

Earlier this year, we successfully hosted a 9-day Fulbright Programme on Elder Care, bringing together care partners, local organisations, and delegates from Kenya and Botswana. The training focussed on building staff capacity, with an emphasis on brain health, and used a ‘train-the-trainer’ approach to foster knowledge exchange and best practices across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Last month, I had the privilege of participating in the Association for Science of South Africa’s 12th Presidential Roundtable on “Perspectives on the Quality of Life and Well-Being of the Elderly in South Africa” (14th August) and the “Addressing Ageing Issues in Southern Africa” webinar hosted by Active Ageing Consortium Asia-Pacific (ACAP) and the Pass It On Network (PION) (24th August).

These steps toward inclusion and solutions for older people, together with my recent attendance at the Badisa Future Care Conference in Cape Town reignited my vision to cement Tafta as being part of the revolution for an age-inclusive world. As someone deeply committed to enhancing the lives of older persons, I believe that every one of us has a role to play in creating a supportive and impactful system of care that encourages a world where we, and our children, can be supported as we grow older.

Femada Shaman, CEO, Tafta, & Vice Chair Commonage

Accreditation



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Our Board

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Join us!

We are a charity and our voluntary Board of Directors is committed to making changes to older people's lives across the Commonwealth.

Help us deliver the ideal of an "All Age Friendly" Commonwealth that values the dignity of older people, respects their wisdom and experience, and that leaves no one behind in the journey towards a sustainable, peaceful future.

[Donate, partner, become a member!](#)

You can donate to us via

- Credit card: Visa, Mastercard and American Express
- Apple Pay
- Google Pay
- PayPal

Get in Touch! We'd love to share your stories and help us to grow the conversations about our mission and vision, and to celebrate the great achievements of organisations and older people themselves.

Thank you for your continued support.

Team CommonAge

Visit our website www.commage.org for more information about our work and for regular updates.

Email Reneta Dsouza, Executive Assistant at secretariat@commage.org or connect with us on social media.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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