

# CONNECTING ALL AGES

## ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH!

Celebrating 10 years of working to ensure older people are fully recognised in society, and are supported and enabled to live well in an all-age friendly Commonwealth.



Commonwealth countries are diverse; they are among the world's biggest, smallest, richest and poorest countries, and of the 8 billion people alive today, 2.5 billion of them live in Commonwealth countries.

Despite the enormous diversity in population dynamics across the countries, with very few exceptions, they all share the global trend of ageing populations, with varying degrees of ageism evident within their civil societies.

This year we are celebrating 10 years of creating connections, sharing ideas and challenging ageism as we work towards an age-friendly Commonwealth

We are committed to ensuring that older people in the Commonwealth are fully recognised in their societies, and that they are supported and enabled to live well.

We believe older people can continue to make a valuable contribution to the communities in which they live and that all generations should live and work together in peace and harmony in a truly inclusive Commonwealth.

We support the view that a healthy ageing population is much less expensive one for governments to support, and therefore is less of a burden on taxpayers and health systems.

By influencing government decision makers, making submissions to international papers and organisations, attending key Commonwealth and other international meetings, conferences and roundtables, we ensure the spotlight is on older people, that their human rights are respected, and that they have access to care and support regardless of age.

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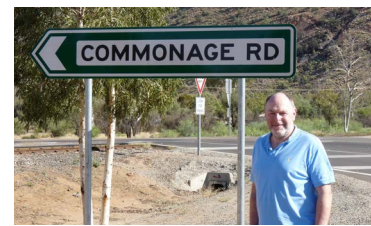
From our small beginnings, we now have representatives in over 25 Commonwealth countries. It is thanks to these dedicated people that we have achieved much over the past 10 years.



# Here are some of the highlights of our first decade

## 2013

- Launch of CommonAge in Melbourne, Australia in November 2013
- A board member attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka



## 2014

- Our focus was on strengthening our foundations, gathering support, and building networks as well as developing our online presence through our website and social media.
- We met with the Commonwealth Secretary General in London who warmly welcomed the CommonAge initiative.
- We supported the launch of the South African Care Forum at its "Festival of Ageing", Stellenbosch, South Africa

## 2015

- India visit by CommonAge CEO, as part of an Australian trade delegation to India.
- 16 Bursaries awarded to delegates from 12 developing Commonwealth Countries to attend the IAHS/ACSA conference, 30 August – 3 September, in Perth, Australia
- A delegation of three board members attended events at CHOGM 2015 in Malta



## 2016

- CommonAge was formally recognised as an accredited Commonwealth civil society organisation
- We commenced our call for veterans' sport and the development of the Commonwealth Masters Games to be a part of the Commonwealth Games.
- Our Chairman and 4 CommonAge Ambassadors attended the IAGG Africa Regional Conference in Nairobi in December 2016.



The Commonwealth

- Achieved charitable status thanks to Finlaysons, lawyers in Australia who provided us with much pro bono legal advice.



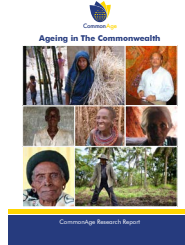
## 2017

- Our Bursary scheme enabled 6 professional colleagues from developing Commonwealth countries to join us in Montreux to attend the Global Ageing Network/ Curaviva Global Ageing Conference, 18-21 September, Switzerland
- Reframing Residential Care seminar in collaboration with The Residential Forum, and hosted in London UK by Trowers & Hamblins LLP
- Launch of our Intergenerational story telling project, with the aim of connecting all ages across the Commonwealth, combating ageism and recording life stories of older people. The project took the form of a competition; young people living in Commonwealth countries were invited to spend time with an older person and write that person's life story, and their own experience.
- We commenced our strong support for the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO), guiding the relationship of accredited organisations with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Commonwealth institutions.



# 2018

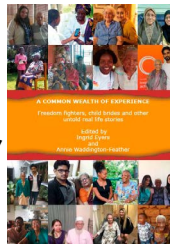
- “Ageing in the Commonwealth” research report published in collaboration with the Oxford University Institute for Population Ageing. This demonstrated how the demographics and challenges of ageing differ across Commonwealth countries and examining how governments and societies are responding. Our thanks to The Abbeyfield Society, Age International, Anchor and St Monica Trust for supporting this research.



- 19 bursaries awarded to delegates from developing Commonwealth to attend the inaugural Commonwealth Elders’ Forum, 16 – 18 April 2018, made possible due to the generous support of Quality Compliance Systems.



- Launch of our e-book A Common Wealth of Experience: Freedom fighters, child brides and other untold real life stories, the collation of stories from the Intergenerational story telling project.



- Inaugural Commonwealth Elders’ Forum 16 – 18 April 2018, staged in partnership with the National Care Forum and linked to the CHOGM 2018. Our first Commonwealth Elders’ Forum, saw colleagues from around the world learning from international speakers and participating in workshops with leading professionals from all over the Commonwealth.

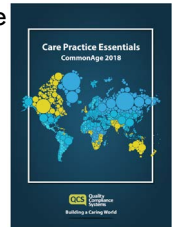


# 2019

- Our CEO presented CommonAge to delegates at the Alzheimer’s International Asia Region Conference, Kuala Lumpur, August 2019.



- Launch of our Quality Manual: Aged Care Quality Practice Essentials. This project, developed in partnership with Quality Compliance Systems UK, was aimed at providing quality resources for those working with older people across the Commonwealth.



- Strong CommonAge presence at the Global Ageing Network Conference in Toronto, Canada 16-19 September 2019.

- Our Chairman gave keynote address at the Association for Seniors Living India (ASLI) Conclave in Delhi on 1 October 2019



# 2020

- CommonAge gave a keynote address at the 5th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Association Conference in London 6-7 March 2020.

- With much of our activity curtailed due to the global pandemic, we staged our first Virtual Commonwealth Elders’ Forum, 30 September 2020. Bringing together leaders from across The Commonwealth, our virtual Commonwealth Elders Forum focused on the need to tackle ageism in the Commonwealth.



# 2021

- Standards and Accreditation Matrix launched in India. In partnership with Standards Wise International, we launched this important set of standards at the 3rd Annual Association of Senior Living India (ASLI) Conclave.



- Published our “Ageism in the Commonwealth” white paper, produced in partnership with HelpAge International, examining how the wellbeing, dignity and voice of older persons had been impacted in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Commonwealth countries.



- CommonAge sponsored Girl Effect’s TEGA (Technology Enabled Girls Ambassadors) in Rwanda, for their project aimed at highlighting, through storytelling, the challenges faced by older women in that country through its recent turbulent history.

2022

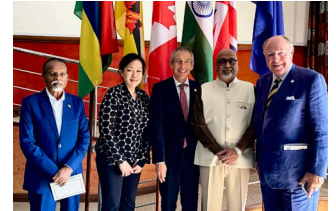
- 8 CommonAge delegates attended CHOGM 2022 in Rwanda where we contributed strongly to the Women’s, Youth and People’s Forums.



- We renewed our call for the Commonwealth Masters Games at the Commonwealth Sports Ministers’ Meeting in Birmingham, UK, prior to the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- International healthy ageing webinar, staged thanks to the sponsorship by the UK Research and Innovation Healthy Ageing Challenge.

- CommonAge mission to Mauritius. With the theme of ‘setting up a healthy ageing task force for Mauritius’, our delegation of 4 directors supported by Standards Wise International participated in a week of meetings and events organised by FIAPA (Mauritius)



- Joined the Decade of Healthy Ageing network of organisations and contributed two of our publications to its knowledge resources.

a contribution to the  
**Decade of healthy ageing**

2023

- Supported 2 young CommonAge leaders to participate in the Commonwealth Study Conferences Leaders programme in Canada in June 2023.
- 7 bursaries awarded for delegates from developing Commonwealth countries to attend the Global Ageing Network Conference in Glasgow, Scotland in September 2023.



Our grateful thanks go to the generous support of organisations from across the Commonwealth who share our vision.

Our special thanks go to:



Join us on our exciting journey to help older people across the Commonwealth

We are a charity, and our voluntary Board of Directors, Ambassadors and other stakeholders are deeply committed to making positive changes to older people’s lives across the Commonwealth.

With a global ageing population, there are some big challenges ahead, but coming together, we can work towards the same objective of creating better, healthy lives for older people, wherever they live.

► **DONATE, PARTNER, OR BECOME A MEMBER!**

Please contact us via [secretariat@commage.org](mailto:secretariat@commage.org) for more information and partnership opportunities.

[www.commage.org](http://www.commage.org)

