The Department of Health (the Department) welcomed participants to the Resource Utilisation and Classification Study (RUCS) and Residential Aged Care Funding Reform Stakeholder Forum.

Mr Jaye Smith, First Assistant Secretary of Residential and Flexible Aged Care Division, introduced Professor Eagar and provided an overview of background to the RUCS.

Professor Kathy Eagar from the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI) at the University of Wollongong presented on the final findings from RUCS and proposals for a new assessment, classification and funding system for residential aged care including associated recommendations as detailed in a suite of seven reports.

Participants reacted positively to Professor Eagar’s presentation and indicated that the recommendations proposed by AHSRI were worthy of consideration. Professor Eagar’s presentation was filmed and the presentation slides, video and transcript of the presentation are both available on the Department’s website: https://agedcare.health.gov.au/reform/resource-utilisation-and-classification-study.

Mr Smith confirmed that AHSRI’s reports had been published and are available at the Department’s web address listed above. Report Six consolidates the recommendations and summarises the findings of the study.

Following Professor Eagar’s presentation, participants were involved in a facilitated discussion that focused on the following topics:

- Proposed funding model, including the fixed/variable and adjustment payment;
- Implementation and transition planning; and
- Implications for care planning and other issues.

Participants were engaged and actively contributed to the discussion session, identifying a range of risks and benefits associated with the model.

The Department announced that a consultation paper to seek feedback on proposed residential aged care funding reform options was currently open. The consultation paper is titled “Proposal for a new residential aged care funding model” and is available at: https://consultations.health.gov.au/. Submissions close 31 May 2019.