



Intellectual Disability Health Education and Training Expert Advisory Group Meeting Summary – 8 December 2021

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Dr Anne-marie Boxall. The Chair welcomed members to the first Intellectual Disability Health Education and Training Expert Advisory Group (Advisory Group) and gave an Acknowledgment of Country.

The Chair thanked members for joining the Advisory Group and highlighted the importance of its role in providing advice and guidance on the implementation of education and training related actions under the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability (the Roadmap).

Advisory Group Structure and Role

The Chair provided background on the launch of the Roadmap and the Advisory Group's formation.

Terms of Reference

Members discussed the scope of the Advisory Group as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs). Members agreed that while vocational education and postgraduate education were not a focus for the current project they would be considered under the Roadmap in the medium term, and as such should remain in scope for the Advisory Group.

Mandatory inclusion of competencies will remain out of scope for the current project.

Members also noted that further detail should be included around how the Advisory Group's recommendations would influence decisions under the overarching work of the Roadmap.

It was agreed that the draft ToRs will be amended to clarify scope and reflect that reporting on the Advisory Group's work would be a standing item for the Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) meetings.

Action 211208-01 Members to provide final comments on draft TORs by 13 December 2021.

Action 211208-02 Secretariat to update the ToRs and circulate to members.

Confidentiality and conflict of interest

The Chair thanked members for completing Deeds of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest declarations. The Chair read the declaration about confidentiality and asked members if they had additional conflicts to declare. No further declarations were made. The Chair asked members to make it clear when putting views forward whether they were speaking as an individual or as a representative of an organisation.

Intellectual Disability Focus Group

The Chair advised the Department of Health (Department) would be establishing an Intellectual Disability Focus Group. The Focus Group would ensure that appropriate and meaningful engagement would occur with people with intellectual disability across all projects under the Roadmap. The Advisory Group will actively engage with the Focus Group and vice versa. The Focus Group will be established in the first half of 2022.

Overview of the Intellectual Disability Health Curriculum Development Project

The Department provided an outline of the curriculum development project including,

- working with the Advisory Group to develop a Competency Framework that identifies and defines intellectual disability competencies and learning outcomes for undergraduate health professional training
- the purpose of the Competency Framework and supporting resource hub to support universities to develop and deliver curriculum content that prepares graduates to provide high quality, safe and effective health care to people with intellectual disability and enable accreditation bodies consideration to intellectual disability health in the development of accreditation and professional standards
- undertaking a scoping and gap analysis of current undergraduate learning modules, resources and curricula content in intellectual disability health

The Advisory Group raised the following points:

- the need to include midwifery along with nursing in the scope of the project
- the importance of multidisciplinary care and learning, as many people live with dual diagnoses
- utilising the Cambridge Approach to assessment, and
- the need to ensuring the gap analysis is not specific, but instead multidisciplinary.

The Department was asked to share the details of the RFQ recently released to undertake a scoping and gap analysis of undergraduate resources in intellectual disability health.

Action 211208-03 Secretariat to provide the Advisory Group the procurement scope for the gap analysis.

Developing the Intellectual Disability Health Competency Framework – What

The Department provided a summary on the Intellectual Disability Health Competency Framework and asked members to share their initial thoughts on the scope of the project.

The Advisory Group discussed:

- giving consideration to existing frameworks for reference, such as the CANMeds Frameworks and the Committee of Deans of Australasian Medical Schools (CDAMS) Indigenous health education framework
- the importance of starting with a clear scope, research question and policy objective for the Framework
- the need to focus on comprehensive care of people with complex needs, taking an active approach to treatment rather than a passive “wait and see” approach

- considering additional barriers to healthcare for people living with intellectual disability, highlighting that people within these groups may also experience mental illness, trauma, intersectional disadvantage
- acknowledgment of the complex system intersections and the need to ensure that a holistic view is taken in developing competencies. Consideration should be given to aged care, the NDIS, health professionals and support staff, and
- focusing on transforming mainstream healthcare to become more inclusive.

Action 211208-04 The Department to draft an overarching policy objective for the Framework for consideration by the Advisory Group.

Action 211208-05 The Department to undertake a review of existing frameworks to refine the scope of the Competency Framework.

Developing the Intellectual Disability Health Competency Framework – How

The Department put forward a number of options for drafting the Competency Framework and noted that, following discussion with the Advisory Group, the Department would progress the preferred option.

Members suggested the best option is to utilise the existing project team within the Department and engage a drafting team to contribute specialist skills as required. Members agreed the drafting group would regularly consult with the Advisory Group and people with intellectual disability throughout the drafting process to ensure true co-design and collaboration.

Members also suggested that the drafting team possess particular skill sets including project management skills, experience drafting competencies and/or learning objectives and strong policy analysis skills.

Action 211208-06 The Department to seek appropriate approval and nominations to engage a specialised drafting group for the Competency Framework.

Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Project

The Department advised that ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Curriculum Development project will be critical to its success.

The draft Project Logic was discussed and members of the Advisory Group were asked to consider and provide feedback out-of-session.

Members were also asked to consider any additional input relevant to establishing an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework to assist in the engagement of an appropriate external project evaluator.

Action 211208-07 The Department to distribute the draft Project Logic to members for consideration and input. The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework will be discussed further at the next Advisory Group meeting.

Update on aligned projects

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) presented an update on the review of the AMC standards. The slides from the presentation were shared with members.

Due to time constraints, the presentation on Australia's Disability Strategy from the Department of Social Services was deferred until the next meeting.

Action 211208-08 The Department of Social Services to present at the next Advisory Group meeting on education and training related actions under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and Targeted Action Plans.

Any other business

No other business was raised.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled early in 2022 (February TBC) to progress the identified work.