



Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG)

Meeting Summary – 14 November 2022

Introduction

The Chair welcomed all members to the fourth Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country and acknowledgement of intellectual disability self-advocates.

The Chair gave a verbal declaration about confidentiality and conflicts of interest. Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest that were not declared at the previous meeting. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

The Chair advised that the Australian Government announced funding for a permanent National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. The Government allocated \$15.9 million in the October 2022 Budget, for a total commitment of \$23.9 million over four years from 2022-23 for the National Centre, with funding to continue beyond those four years. In addition to funding for a National Centre, \$20 million is being made available from the Medical Research Future Fund Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven Research Initiative from 2024-25, for research on improving the health of people with intellectual disability.

Previous meeting

The previous meeting summary was endorsed by members with no change.

Following up on action items

The two action items from the previous meeting were marked as completed. No action items from previous meetings remain open.

Update from the Intellectual Disability Focus Group

A member of the Intellectual Disability Focus Group (Focus Group) provided a summary of discussions from the first two Focus Group meetings held in August. At the first induction meeting, members talked about how the Focus Group will tell the Government about health issues for people with intellectual disability and share their ideas for improving health care. At the second meeting, members were consulted about the draft capability framework for the Intellectual Disability Curriculum Development project.

Department of Health and Aged Care Roadmap Projects

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) gave an update on recent progress on the four projects currently being implemented by the Department. A summary is included at [Attachment A](#).

Members raised the following points about the projects:

- Organisations asked for earlier advance notice of public consultations, and a longer consultation period to facilitate feedback from stakeholders.
 - The Department agreed to look at these issues.
- The Capability Framework being developed in the Curriculum Development Project could be adapted for wider use, for example in learning modules for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.
 - The Department agreed this could be considered in the future.

Oral health priority actions – Implementation

RIGG members were asked out-of-session to identify their top three oral health priority actions. These were:

Equal Priority 1: D.S.4 Expanding oral health promotion

The Commonwealth to work with the disability sector to identify ways of implementing training in oral health as compulsory for disability support workers (Certificate IV), noting that it currently only contains elective content on this issue.

Equal Priority 1: D.S.1 Increasing the volume of services

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to:

- work with the Australian Dental Association to promote the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) to people with intellectual disability
- investigate the uptake of the CDBS by particular cohorts, including children with intellectual disability, to help inform the development of appropriate models of care
- explore the feasibility of financing a dental schedule under the Dental Benefits Act 2008 and other options for people with disability that better support complex and difficult services, such as in hospital services under general anaesthetic
- lead work with states and territories, peak oral health organisations and PHNs, including in the context of the proposed National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health, to support the implementation of 'hub and spoke' models of care that facilitate upskilling, communication, and appropriate referral between centralised special needs dentists and community dental clinics.

Priority 3: D.S.3 Expanding workforce training

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to:

- work with deans of dental schools on courses for dentists, dental therapists and hygienists to specialise in oral health care for people with disability
- work with the Australian Dental Association to develop continuing professional development modules.

Members discussed strategies and ideas for implementing these actions. The Department agreed to collate and circulate draft recommendations to members for feedback.

Research presentation - Guide to supporting the health of people with intellectual disability

Dr Rachel Skoss from the Institute for Health Research, University of Notre Dame Australia presented an overview of [Health Care for People Who Need Extra Support](#) (the guide).

Dr Skoss developed the guide to help support workers, families, and carers with health literacy when caring for people with intellectual disability.

Members congratulated Dr Skoss on the guide. Dr Skoss invited members to contact her directly for more information.

It was agreed that a separate discussion with interested parties should be held to consider how to best promote and use the guide. The Department will discuss with the Department of Social Services and its portfolio agencies with a view to organising a meeting in early 2023.

Other business

The Department provided an update on the status of the first annual progress report for the Roadmap. Information regarding the status of Roadmap actions has been received from the majority of stakeholders and is being collated and analysed. A draft of the report will be provided for discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting close

The Chair advised the next meeting will include a discussion about procedural sedation. This was raised out-of-session by the South Australia government representative.

The next meeting will be on Monday 20 February 2023.

Next steps

- Secretariat to circulate draft recommendations on implementation of oral health priority actions for RIGG members to comment on out-of-session.
- Department of Health and Aged Care to convene a meeting of key agencies in early 2023 to discuss promotion and implementation of the guide and training of support workers.

Attachment A: Department of Health Project updates – Summary

National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability

The Department is currently delivering four projects under the Roadmap. These are:

- National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health
- Intellectual disability curriculum development
- Annual health assessments
- Primary Care Enhancement Program, or PCEP

A lot of progress has been made in these projects over recent months.

National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health

In the 2021-22 Budget, Commonwealth funding of \$1.4 million was allocated to enable the scoping and co-design of options for a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health (National Centre). The final scoping and co-design report was approved in March 2022.

In the 2022 Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook, a total of \$8 million over 2 years from 2022-23 was allocated for the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. In the October 2022 Budget, the Government allocated a further \$15.9 million, for a total commitment of \$23.9 million over four years from 2022-23 (ongoing), for the National Centre.

Next steps:

- In early 2023, organisations will be invited to apply for a grant to establish and run the National Centre. The Department will run information sessions before the grant opportunity opens. Organisations will have around 2 months to apply.
- RIGG members will be advised by email when the grant opportunity opens.

Curriculum Development in Intellectual Disability Health

In the 2021-22 Budget, Commonwealth funding of \$4.7 million was allocated to curriculum development in intellectual disability health. A key objective of this work is to develop an Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework (the Framework). The Framework is being designed to support universities to integrate intellectual disability health care principles into their current pre-registration education curricula. The Framework will provide guidance and be supported by resources that can be adopted by universities and accreditation authorities to ensure curricula prepare graduates with the key capabilities required to provide the highest quality care to people with intellectual disability in their future health professional careers.

In June 2022, the Department engaged individuals from Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN), Australian Medical Council, Flinders University, Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, and the Australasian Council of Dental Schools with specific expertise to form a specialist drafting group for the co-design and development of the Framework. The final Framework, including learning outcomes and implementation guide, is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Next steps:

- There will be a public consultation on the draft Capability Framework. Members will be advised when it opens.

Annual Health Assessments

In the 2021-22 Budget, Commonwealth funding of \$6.7 million was allocated to improve the uptake and implementation of annual health assessments for people with intellectual disability. There is a special form that GPs can use to do annual health assessments. The Department is negotiating a license to be able to share a form that helps GPs to do annual health assessments for people with intellectual disability.

Next steps:

- We will notify members when we have permission to use the special form for annual health assessments.
- When we have permission, we will develop a project plan to:
 - make the special form freely available to people with intellectual disability, their families and carers, and GPs
 - make it easier for people to use the special form, and
 - make the special form easier for GPs to use on their computer

Primary Care Enhancement Program (PCEP)

Commonwealth funding of \$6.56 million has been committed over four years from 2020-21 to deliver the Primary Care Enhancement Program for people with intellectual disability (PCEP). This initiative will:

- help GPs and other health professionals provide better care to people with intellectual disability, and
- give people with intellectual disability improved access to appropriate, quality health services that meet their needs.

The Department is working with four lead Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to develop the PCEP (Central and Eastern Sydney PHN; Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN; Western Victoria PHN; Primary Health Tasmania). The Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) also developed resources and training materials, including:

- a training module for delivery to primary health care professionals by PHNs
- resources for GPs and other primary care professionals, including information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and
- health promotion materials in Easy Read format for people with intellectual disability and their families.

Resources developed under the PCEP are now available on the Department's website for health professionals and people with intellectual disability to use. A link to these resources can be found here:

[National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

The Department has engaged an organisation to do an evaluation of the PCEP.

Next steps:

- The evaluator will collect the first set of information from the PHNs at the end of November 2022
- The evaluator will visit each PHN region in 2023 to talk to health workers, people with intellectual disability and advocacy groups. The information they collect will be part of the evaluation.
- The PHNs will keep delivering training to health workers until December 2022. There are plans to deliver more training in 2023.