



HIV Taskforce

3 May 2023 Meeting Communiqué

The Australian Government is committed to ending transmission of HIV in this country – and virtually eliminating the virus by 2030.

Australia has led the world in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic – but there are significant challenges to overcome in order to achieve the Government's commitment.

Today, the HIV Taskforce held its inaugural meeting in Sydney on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

The new taskforce continues the strong bipartisanship Australia has had in its response to HIV/AIDS since the start of the epidemic back in the early 1980s.

It is made up of representatives from academia, people living with HIV, health professionals, sex workers, the First Australians health sector, people from CALD communities, and key members of both Government and the Coalition.

The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, attended the first meeting as a guest to lead a discussion on the Department of Home Affairs 2023 Review of the Migration Health Requirements.

Dr Skye McGregor, from the Kirby Institute, and Professor Mark Stoové, from the Burnet Institute, also attended as guests to provide the meeting with an overview of HIV in Australia, with a focus on notifications, local characteristics of the epidemic, and areas of emerging concern.

Taskforce members have been brought together to identify high priority actions for consideration by the Government. Members took the opportunity today to introduce themselves and spoke about what they brought to the taskforce, including their lived experience, and what they hoped would come out of the process.

The taskforce will work collaboratively to develop recommendations that will deliver on its terms of reference and provide a roadmap for Government to take action to effectively eliminate HIV transmission in Australia.

Areas for exploration and advice by the HIV Taskforce will include:

1. Consideration and advice on priority actions and policies to end transmission of HIV in Australia, including prevention, testing, diagnosis, care and treatment
2. Identification and consideration of emerging trends and issues related to HIV in Australia and globally
3. Recommendation of priority actions and policies to ensure Australia is well prepared to implement new and emerging best-practice diagnostics, treatments and care for people living with HIV
4. Identification of best-practice approaches to destigmatisation and increasing awareness, education, testing and treatment among priority populations
5. Identification of areas for cooperation, coordination and engagement with states and territories, and

6. Reviewing and endorsement of the 9th National HIV Strategy and its implementation.

Next steps

The taskforce will next meet to discuss increasing the awareness of HIV, promoting prevention, testing and treatment in key populations and how to tackle the ongoing stigma around HIV.

Chair

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP

3 May 2023

Canberra

The HIV Taskforce is chaired by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP. The membership is set out below.

Member	Organisation/Title
The Hon Ged Kearney MP (Deputy Chair)	Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care
Senator Louise Pratt	Senator for Western Australia
Senator Dean Smith	Senator for Western Australia
Adjunct Associate Professor Darryl O'Donnell	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Mr Scott Harlum	President, National Association of People with HIV Australia
Ms Penny Kenchington	Vice President, Australasian Society of HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine
Mish Pony (they/them)	Chief Executive Officer, Scarlet Alliance Australian Sex Workers Association
Ms Tina Hosseini	Research Fellow, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Jason Agostino	Medical Advisor, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Mr Aaron Cogle	Executive Director, National Association of People with HIV Australia
Professor Margaret Hellard AM	Deputy Director, Burnet Institute
Professor Andrew Grulich	Program Head HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program, The Kirby Institute
Professor Michael Kidd AM	Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care

Invited guests/presenters	Organisation/Title
The Hon Andrew Giles MP	Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
Dr Christopher Lemoh	Infectious Disease and General Physician, Western Health Victoria
Dr Skye McGregor	Epidemiologist, Global Health Program Surveillance and Evaluation Research Program, The Kirby Institute
Professor Mark Stoové	Head, Public Health, HIV Prevention Group, Burnet Institute