



National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021–2031

Investing in our medical workforce to meet Australia's health needs

Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee

Communique – 16 March 2023

The final meeting of the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) occurred on Thursday 16 March 2023 in Canberra. MWRAC welcomed Professor Brendan Murphy, Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) who thanked members for their continued service and contribution on MWRAC. Professor Murphy highlighted the collaborative effort in the development of the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS) and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the implementation of the NMWS.

Members received an update on the draft Service Registrar and Career Medical Officer Framework (the Framework) developed by the Service Registrar Working Group (SRWG) in consultation with jurisdictions from the Co-Chairs of SRWG. Ms McCarty, Department of Health and Aged Care presented associated data on the current trends and analysis relating to training numbers. The draft Framework will be progressed through further stakeholder consultation. Members also received information on NMWS implementation including stakeholder engagement, evaluation and progress of actions relating to locums and a national career portal.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association presented on the success of their Specialist Trainee Support Program, including the measures they have implemented to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Islander non-GP medical specialists.

Dr Kudzai Kanhutu from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) presented on Royal Melbourne Hospital's journey in providing patient care using specialist virtual workforce models during COVID. Dr Kanhutu outlined the potential and opportunity for specialist virtual workforce models to support patient care going forward.

Professor Anthony Lawler from the Department of Health Tasmania presented on Tasmania's One Health Culture Program, which is addressing issues of culture and wellbeing for the Tasmanian Health Workforce.

With the conclusion of this committee, further MWRAC business will continue out of session until new governance arrangements are established.