



ALLIED HEALTH INDUSTRY REFERENCE GROUP
MEETING SIX: 7 JUNE 2023 SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

The Australian Government Chief Allied Health Officer (CAHO) convened the sixth Allied Health Industry Reference Group (AHIRG) meeting on 7 June 2023. Participants joined the meeting in-person or virtually.

Topics discussed:

- Current delegation, insurance, and quality of care guidance for Allied Health Assistants (AHAs)
- Federal Budget Update
 - The department discussed several allied health related items that were announced at the recent 2023-24 Federal Budget. These items respond to the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce report, which was released earlier this year.
 - Members highlighted the need for efficient Government communication and cooperation, given this work will stretch across multiple sectors.
 - Budget initiatives discussed included:
 - The MyMedicare voluntary patient registration system, which will commence on 1 July 2023 for practice registration and 1 October 2023 for patients.
 - The Workforce Incentive Program, which has been expanded to enable additional funding for multidisciplinary care, including allied health.
 - Primary Health Networks multidisciplinary team commissioning to improve access to allied health, nursing and midwifery services.
 - Scope of Practice review to identify barriers which prevent health workers, including allied health, from working to their full scope of practice.
 - Thin Markets funding, to increase access in areas where there is a significant shortage of aged care, disability and primary health care services. Funding will be provided to ten identified locations across multiple sectors, including primary care.
- The department committed to holding an out of session AHIRG session to discuss the impact of allied health work-based learning placements on quality of care and further discussion on AHAs.

NEXT STEPS:

- 1- The department will seek members' input on the common pathways for AHAs to move into working as an allied health professional.
- 2- Pending further discussions with NAHAC, the department will aim to present members with draft principles to guide decisions on delegating activities to AHAs at the July AHIRG meeting.
- 3- The department will reach out to the Vocational Education and Training sector regarding the timing of, and process for, future reviews of AHA training courses.