



## HIV Taskforce

### 11 August 2023 Meeting Communiqué

Today, the HIV Taskforce held its third meeting, in Adelaide, on the land of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains.

Taskforce members focused on new technology, innovation and testing in the HIV space, and discussed the draft Ninth National HIV Strategy, priority actions, and recommendations to be delivered to the Australian Government.

Taskforce Chair, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, addressed the meeting, and reflected on the Government's presence at, and the success of, the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science, which was held in Brisbane from 23-26 July 2023.

Both Minister Butler and Deputy Chair, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP, met with industry representatives at the conference to discuss the future of HIV treatment, prevention and testing and how new innovations can underpin Australia's response.

Assistant Minister Kearney reported on the HIV Youth Roundtable held on 11 July 2023. The roundtable featured 15 young participants and sexual health professionals and canvassed experiences of living with a positive diagnosis, communicating effectively with young people, and the challenge of stigma around HIV and healthcare.

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, returned to the taskforce to provide an update to members on the work in his portfolio to review the Immigration Health Requirement to better meet community expectations.

Professor Tony Kelleher, from the Kirby Institute, was invited to the meeting as a guest and delivered a presentation on HIV molecular epidemiology and phylogenetics. Professor Kelleher's research investigates the application of viral genomics in public health.

Members discussed a number of priority actions and policies to end HIV transmission in Australia, including communication activities to reduce stigma and increase HIV awareness, pathways to decriminalise HIV, and opportunities to further collaborate with states and territories.

Members agreed to undertake further work out of session in a range of areas to inform taskforce recommendations to the Government regarding actions and policies to ensure Australia can implement new and emerging best-practice diagnostics, treatments and care for people living with HIV.

Taskforce members discussed that the work of the HIV Taskforce should inform the development of the Ninth National HIV Strategy.

#### **Next steps**

The next meeting of the taskforce will finalise its recommendations to the Government. The taskforce is on track to finalise its recommendation and report by the end of 2023.

**Chair**

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

**11 August 2023**

**Adelaide**