



HIV Taskforce

20 October 2023 Meeting Communiqué

Today, the HIV Taskforce held its 4th and final meeting, on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples in Canberra.

The meeting brought Taskforce members together to discuss the final content of their report – including the recommendations they will make to the Australian Government. The Taskforce was charged with considering HIV issues and trends in Australia and providing advice to the Government on priority areas to end the transmission of, and virtually eliminate, HIV in Australia.

The thinking of the HIV Taskforce has been informed by presentations from experts, the input of young people who participated in the HIV Youth Roundtable, and the proceedings of the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science.

Throughout the 4 meetings, members of the Taskforce contributed their expertise and life experience to inform the drafting of the HIV Taskforce Report and its recommendations.

The recommendations will, in turn, inform the Government's approach to meeting its commitment to end the transmission of HIV in this country – and virtually eliminate the virus – by 2030.

They will also feed into work to further draft the Ninth National HIV Strategy.

Although the content and recommendations are yet to be finalised, the report is set to focus on the following themes:

- increasing the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis
- increasing testing rates
- ensuring access to treatments
- building awareness to drive behaviour change
- dismantling stigma, and
- partnering on a national response.

The report will set out the recommendations of the Taskforce, addressing the 6 themes of prevention, testing, treatment, awareness, stigma, and partnership.

Today's meeting welcomed 2 guests: Health Equity Matters Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dash Heath-Paynter, and Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly.

Taskforce Chair, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, and Deputy Chair, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP, thanked all members for their time and their contribution to drafting the HIV Taskforce Report.

Next steps

The HIV Taskforce Report will be finalised and is expected to be released ahead of World AIDS Day on 1 December 2023.

Chair

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

20 October 2023

Canberra