



## Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Health Advisory Group

**Update: 30 October 2023**

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its 3rd meeting on 30 October 2023.

### Updates from the meeting

The Department of Health and Aged Care (department) welcomed members to the third and final meeting of 2023. An update on the National Women's Health Advisory Council was provided, including the #EndGenderBias survey, which closed on 13 October 2023.

The department shared information on the *Stillbirth Action Plan* which includes activities to address equity gaps for migrants, refugees and CALD populations. The [Safer Baby Bundle](#) and the [Growing a Healthy Baby](#) initiatives were adapted in consultation with target communities to ensure they are suitable for migrant and refugee women.

The Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) provided members with an overview of the Multicultural Framework Review. Submissions closed on 13 October 2023 with the Review Panel's report to be finalised by March 2024.

Home Affairs is bringing together a package of measures to support *all* Australian communities affected by the Israel/Hamas conflict. The department and the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) provided an overview of the targeted mental health and community wellbeing support services being delivered by FASSTT and Primary Health Networks. Home Affairs outlined a package of social cohesion measures being implemented.

An overview was provided on MyMedicare, the new voluntary patient registration system for general practice, which opened for patients on 1 October 2023. Registering with MyMedicare provides benefits to patients, general practices, and healthcare providers. CALD communities will be consulted on a change management strategy being developed to support the ongoing implementation.

The department discussed the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy 2022-32, which has now been endorsed by all governments and is available on the [department's website](#). The strategy provides a high-level vision and roadmap to build a sustainable workforce that is skilled, well-distributed and supported to deliver mental health treatment, care and support that meets current and future needs.

The department presented preliminary analysis on recency of vaccination and findings from investigation of barriers to vaccination. Members also shared suggestions for the future data work program for consideration.

The Chair announced that the Advisory Group has been extended to 31 December 2024 and thanked members for their ongoing commitment and dedication.

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting in the new year.

See [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Health Advisory Group](#) and [terms of reference](#) for more information.