



Psychosocial Project Group: Project Update #3 November 2023

Under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, the Australian Government and state and territory governments have committed to undertaking further analysis of psychosocial supports outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Psychosocial Project Group (Project Group) has been established as a time limited group to progress this analysis. The outcome of this work will be used to inform future arrangements for provision of these supports.

Please see below for the third Project Group update:

- The Project Group have conducted nine meetings (15 September, 25 November and 9 December in 2022, and 10 February, 17 May, 4 July, 31 August, 31 October and 10 November in 2023) to progress the analysis of psychosocial supports outside of the NDIS.
- The consultation plan for the unmet need analysis project is being finalised and will be published shortly outlining stakeholder consultation and engagement for this project that is estimating the current need for, compared to current availability of, psychosocial supports outside of the NDIS – across Commonwealth and state/territory funded programs.
 - This project will not be examining models of psychosocial support to re-design the system. Reform and re-design options for psychosocial supports will be the next phase of work.
 - There will be opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to the next phase of re-design.
- Health Policy Analysis (HPA) held the first national virtual workshop with stakeholders on 18 August 2023 to test the methodology, including definition and target cohort of psychosocial supports, of the unmet need analysis. A summary of outcomes and draft methodology paper are available on the Project Group's [webpage](#). The final definition and target cohort for psychosocial supports, for the purposes of the unmet need analysis, is below.
- HPA is currently obtaining data from all jurisdictions for the analysis.

Definition and target cohort of 'psychosocial supports' for the unmet need analysis

Psychosocial supports are non-clinical and recovery-oriented services, delivered in the community and tailored to individual needs, which support people experiencing mental illness to live independently and safely in the community.

Target cohort: People aged 12-65 years (split into 12-24 and 25-65 cohorts) with mental illness and associated psychosocial impairment impacting on functional capacity. The analysis should include a detailed analysis of unmet need amongst people with severe mental illness, and a high-level analysis of unmet need amongst people with moderate mental illness. The definition of severe and moderate will align with what is used in the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework (for consistency with the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Health). If possible, the analysis should also examine the need for psychosocial supports in those over 65 years of age.