



UPDATE FROM LEAD REVIEWER PROFESSOR MARK CORMACK

Phase 1 of the Scope of Practice Review is very quickly making way for Phase 2. In a very short space of time, the review team and I have:

- received more than 700 submissions through the Phase 1 survey
- met with more than 80 organisations, representing perspectives from right across the health system
- established our 23-person Expert Advisory Committee and held its first meeting
- our research partner for the review, the University of Queensland supported by KPMG, is on board and well and truly ensconced in the work of the project.

The wealth of perspectives contributors have shared has enriched our understanding of the current landscape and will contribute to well-informed findings and recommendations.

Phase 1 public submission

We opened our first online submission on 11 September and received more than 700 submissions before its close on 16 October. This first submission phase was an opportunity for me to explore the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including consumers and health practitioners. These groups shared first-hand views about the myriad ways in which health practitioners working to full scope of practice could improve people's access to quality primary care, no matter where in Australia they live. Their contributions also shed light on how some of the obstacles to full scope of practice – current and future – could be overcome.

The review schedule includes a further three public submission processes, with the next to open in late December and close in late February. The focus of this submission will be seeking your perspectives and comment on Issues Paper 1.

Phase 1 consultation process

In October I began an intensive program of meetings and discussions with individuals and groups representing the many perspectives from across the sector.

Gaining the views of as many people as possible, representing the broadest span of professions and perspectives, is essential to the success of this review. It helps paint a comprehensive and representative picture of the priorities of and pressures on each of you. It also helps the review understand the context around the issues you identify and highlights the critical need to address people's access to primary health care in our cities, and our regional and rural areas.

Our program of consultations will continue with one-off and repeat meetings throughout the course of the review. From January, the focus of those meetings will shift to Issues Paper 1, seeking your advice and opinions as the themes the paper raises begin to take shape.

Expert Advisory Committee

I met with our newly formed [Expert Advisory Committee](#) (EAC) on 14 November. The 23-member committee includes representation from general practice, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, allied health, as well as consumers and people involved in workforce education and training. Each member is highly qualified, and brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, skills and interest in the delivery of multidisciplinary and affordable primary care.

The EAC provides subject matter expertise, insights and advice throughout the review process, including helping to guide our stakeholder engagement processes.

I expect that we will bring the EAC together at a further three key points of the review, through to delivery of the report in October 2024.

Research partnership with UQ

Our research partner for the project is the University of Queensland's Centre for the Business and Economics of Health (CBEH) supported by KPMG. They are working hard to review and analyse the submissions and add these important insights to our growing evidence base. They have also commenced work on a literature review around the evidence about health practitioners working to full scope of practice, identifying the benefits, the risks, barriers and enablers. UQ's role also includes drafting Issues Paper 1. Their task is to shape emerging themes into a set of clear areas for our focus and consultation.

As we move forward, the UQ team will continue to analyse the gathered data, synthesise the feedback received, and help guide our stakeholder engagement activities.

Next steps

We remain committed to fostering transparency and collaboration throughout this review.

In the coming weeks, we will release Issues Paper 1. It will summarise the key findings from the first consultation phase, outline our approach to analysis and the emerging themes, and provide an opportunity to shape and inform the direction of the Review

To keep up to date with the progress of the review and the next opportunities to have your say, please make sure you have subscribed to receive correspondence from the review team. Please email scopeofpracticereview@health.gov.au

I'm looking forward to meeting with you over coming weeks and your ongoing participation in this very important project.

Best regards,

Mark Cormack

Lead Reviewer

scopeofpracticereview@health.gov.au

1 December 2023