



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing 10 Year Action Plan Expert Advisory Group

1 February 2024 Meeting Communiqué

The Australian Government continues to work towards improving access to care, support, and better physical health, mental health, and wellbeing outcomes for LGBTIQA+ communities.

Today, the LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing 10 Year National Action Plan Expert Advisory Group (EAG) held its third meeting, in Melbourne, on the land of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. Assistant Minister Kearney, Chair of the EAG, opened the meeting and reflected on the progress made since the previous meeting of the EAG on 8 September 2023.

BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation spoke to EAG members on the unique needs and priorities of First Nations LGBTIQA+SB communities across the country. The presentation outlined many of the challenges faced by First Nations LGBTIQA+SB communities, and highlighted the importance of ensuring strength-based and evidence informed solutions to support people which are designed with and led by First Nations communities.

Health Equity Matters (HEM) presented on their national consultation on experiences of health care for LGBTIQA+ communities in primary care settings. The consultations identified examples of unsafe and/or negative experiences in primary care, as well as challenges related to access and costs associated with care. The consultation noted the strong preference for engagement with LGBTIQA+ community controlled services.

EAG Members discussed progress and reflections on national consultation activities to inform the development of the first 10-Year National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ People. Consultations highlighted examples of successful approaches to date and the need to have a strength-based approach to supporting LGBTIQA+ people.

EAG Members will continue to inform the development of the 10-Year National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ People to ensure improvements to the health systems address existing health disparities experienced by people in LGBTIQA+ communities and their families. The EAG also wished to acknowledge the LGBTIQA+ festive season, and would like to wish LGBTIQA+ people a happy Midsumma and Mardi Gras and extend this to any and all other regional Pride festivals happening at this time.

Next steps

The EAG will next meet to discuss further updates on national consultation activities, progress of the draft Action Plan, and will continue to inform the development of the first 10 Year National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ people.

Chair

The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP

1 February 2024

Melbourne