



Better Renal Services Steering Committee

Meeting 2 Communique

4 December 2023

Introduction

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) have established the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Steering Committee (the Committee) to provide advice on the implementation of the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Measure (the Measure). Under the Measure, the Government has invested \$73.2 million to provide funding for up to 30 four-chair dialysis units, including workforce accommodation where required, to provide life-saving health care to First Nations Australians with end-stage kidney disease.

Summary of discussion

The Co-Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Members to Meeting 2. An update on open actions from Meeting 1 was provided.

The Co-Chair invited Andrew Marsden, Partner at O'Connor Marsden & Associates (OCM), to present a summary of the draft Probity Framework to guide the Committee. OCM has been engaged to provide independent probity advice to the Committee and support members to manage any real or perceived conflicts of interest in a way that supports genuine shared decision making.

The Co-Chair explained the need to immediately identify 3-4 sites for dialysis units to utilise the remaining 2023-24 funding allocation. It was clarified that if the funds are not spent by 30 June 2024, they will likely be returned to consolidated revenue. Members proposed and discussed potential sites for consideration by the Committee. Members were asked to provide additional information and advice out of session to enable Co-Chairs to make a joint recommendation on sites to take to the Minister for Health and Aged Care for decision.

Due to limited time remaining, additional discussions on site selection methodology and approaches to engaging with community to inform future site selections did not occur in session. Members were provided a paper on these topics and will be asked to provide comments out of session.

Outcomes

- Members were provided an overview of the draft Probity Framework and had the opportunity to comment.
- Members proposed and discussed potential sites for dialysis units for Round 2.

Next Meeting

The third meeting of the Committee will be held in February 2024. Date to be confirmed.