



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM): *Communique* **19 April 2024 - Brisbane**

Health Ministers met in Brisbane today to progress the National Health Reform Agreement negotiations and discuss a range of important matters including responses to boundary violations by healthcare workers, recognition of advanced practice paramedic roles within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Tragic events that unfolded at Bondi Junction Westfield and Wakeley

Health Ministers began by paying their respects to the victims of the tragic events at Bondi Junction on Saturday 13 April and at Wakeley on Monday 15 April. Health Ministers extend their sympathies to the families of the six people who were killed and send best wishes to those victims still in recovery. They acknowledged the first responders on the scene including paramedics, and the expert response by doctors, nurses and other workers across a number of hospitals.

National Health Reform Agreement negotiations

Health Ministers continued to discuss National Health Reform Agreement negotiations following the National Cabinet decision in December 2023. Health Ministers discussed the need to enable care to be provided where it is most appropriate for the patient, and that the Agreement should support models of care outside hospitals, including community-based and virtual care. Health Ministers noted the inclusion of new schedules in the Addendum to better support the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, strengthen Rural and Remote Health access, and promote optimised models of joined up care and innovation. Negotiations are continuing.

Health Ministers also discussed the \$1.2 billion package of Strengthening Medicare measures to take pressure off hospitals in the shorter-term as agreed by National Cabinet in December 2023.

All jurisdictions remain focused on ensuring Australians receive the care and support they need.

Advanced Practice Paramedics

Recognising the important work of paramedics in Australia, Health Ministers have agreed to work with the Paramedicine Board of Australia to establish Area of Practice Endorsements for advanced practice paramedics for critical care paramedicine and community paramedicine. This decision was reached in consultation with the Paramedicine Board of Australia. Health Ministers agreed that jurisdictions would continue to engage with the Paramedicine Board of Australia to achieve full access to independent prescribing rights outside of State ambulance services.

Responses to sexual misconduct by health practitioners

Health Ministers continue to take seriously the concerning reports of sexual misconduct by health practitioners. Patients should be aware of previous serious sexual misconduct of any health practitioner. Therefore, Ministers have agreed that the Health Practitioner National Law will be amended to ensure any such proven allegation remain on a practitioner's record in perpetuity.

National Bloodspot Screening Program

Ministers agreed to national implementation of six conditions that are currently not consistently screened across jurisdictions. This includes two target conditions: tyrosinemia type I and guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency (GAMT-D); and four non-target conditions: 3-methylglutaconic aciduria (3-MGA) and 3-methylcrotonyl-CoA carboxylase deficiency (3-MCC), x-linked agammaglobulinemia (XLA) and malonic acidemia.

States and territories will now take steps to ready their programs for implementation.

Vaping statement

All Health Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Commonwealth Government's vaping reforms through a [joint statement](#).

Mental Health

Ministers discussed a range of mental health issues and agreed to hold a dedicated session with Mental Health Ministers.