
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Health Advisory Group

Meeting: 19 June 2024

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its 5th meeting on 19 June 2024.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Department of Health and Aged Care (department) welcomed members to the second meeting of 2024.

Ms Robyn Kruk AO, COVID-19 Response Inquiry, Panel Chair, presented on the inquiry's progress, which aims to identify lessons learned to improve Australia's preparedness for future pandemics. The presentation included an overview of engagement to date. Members were invited to share their feedback on learnings, identified gaps and recommendations for future preparedness across three key areas:

1. Consultation, communication & engagement
2. Experiences of public health measures
3. Vaccine rollout

The department summarised the 2024-25 Budget commitments relevant to multicultural communities, and updated on the work across Population Health Division, including:

- *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030.*
- Stillbirth and Miscarriage Support.
- Cervical Screening Self-Collect Awareness Campaign, and
- LGBTIAQ+ Action Plan.

Dr Adele Murdolo, Executive Director, Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, discussed the work of the [National Women's Health Advisory Council](#) – Safety Subcommittee. Members noted the importance of working with interpreters, training and capacity building, and embedding safety for women into the health system.

The department provided an update on the timeline for analysing data on multicultural communities' access to mental health services during the pandemic. Discussions are taking place with the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding the use of linked data for future multicultural health data analytics projects.

Updates were provided on the progress of items on the CALD AG 2024 Work Plan, which included an overview of planned engagement with members for future meetings.

NEXT STEPS

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting on 10 September 2024.

See [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Health Advisory Group](#) and [terms of reference](#) for more information.