



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM):

Communique

14 June 2024 - Adelaide

Health Ministers met in Adelaide today to receive an update on the National Health Reform Agreement Addendum negotiations and to discuss a range of important matters including spinal manipulation of children under two years of age, implementing recommendations from the Kruk Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings, the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme Complexity Review, vaping reforms and the Australian Centre for Disease Control.

National Health Reform Agreement Addendum negotiations (NHRA)

Health Ministers received an update on NHRA negotiations which have been progressing following the decision made by National Cabinet in December 2023. Health Ministers noted that the Prime Minister and state and territory First Ministers had agreed that the combined health and disability reforms will be progressed in tandem. This will ensure greater alignment of reform and that all states and territories are better off following the endorsement of the new Addendum. Health Ministers discussed the decision of the Commonwealth to pause NHRA negotiations to ensure the reforms progress in tandem.

All jurisdictions remain focused on ensuring Australians receive the care and support they need. To this end, Ministers are committed to finalising as soon as possible a national agreement to commence from 1 July 2025.

Implementing the recommendations of the Kruk Review

Health Ministers noted the important progress made by Ahpra and Medical Board of Australia implementing the recommendations of the Kruk Review, including work on expedited pathways for specialist International Medical Graduates (IMGs). This is critical to ensure a well-trained and resourced medical workforce that meets the healthcare needs for all Australians. Health Ministers also discussed and agreed the revised registration standards for English language skills as recommended by the National Boards, ensuring a high proficiency in English while streamlining the entry pathway for potential IMGs.

National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme Complexity Review

The National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) sets out the requirements for accreditation of specialists who provide care in our health services. Ministers noted that a Complexity Review of NRAS is underway, led by Ms Sue Dawson. Health Ministers noted that the Review will seek to identify opportunities to reduce the complexity and optimize the performance of the NRAS with a focus on practical, principle-based solutions and clear implementation actions, timeframes, and accountabilities.

Spinal manipulation of children under two years of age

Health Ministers are concerned the Chiropractic Board of Australia has lifted its interim ban on the spinal manipulation of children under two years of age. On behalf of Health Ministers, the Chair of the Health Ministers' Meeting will write to the Chiropractic Board requesting it to immediately reinstate the interim ban and provide urgent advice on its recent decision to allow a resumption of this practice.

National Vaping Reforms

Health Ministers welcomed an update from Minister Butler on the legislation before the Australian Parliament to ban the sale, supply, manufacture and commercial possession of non-therapeutic vapes. All Health Ministers urge the Australian Parliament to pass legislation swiftly to protect the health of all Australians, particularly children and young people.

Australian Centre for Disease Control

Health Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC); and noted the interim Australian CDC commenced on 1 January 2024, which marks the first step in establishing an Australian CDC.

The final design of the Australian CDC will be informed by the outcomes of the [Commonwealth's COVID-19 Response Inquiry](#) (anticipated September 2024). This will enable the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic to be reflected in the design of the CDC. Ministers agreed that strong state and territory partnerships will be critical to the Australian CDC's success.