



National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic People

Health Roadmap Working Group Meeting 6

The Health Roadmap Working Group (the Working Group) was formed in May 2023 to provide expert advice and oversee development of a National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic People (the Autism Health Roadmap).

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by two of the Working Group deputy co-chairs. They opened the meeting by welcoming everyone all attendees and provided an acknowledgment of country.

Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest that were not previously declared to the secretariat. None were declared.

Roadmap Development Process

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) presented an overview of the project and the project timeline.

The Autism CRC co-design project recommendations will be used by the Working Group to inform discussions and be a key input to the Roadmap.

The Roadmap consists of three related levels.

1. The Guiding Principles and Elements define the overall scope of the project.
2. Outcomes are the ideal future state and will be linked to the relevant individual Elements and
3. Actions are the steps that need to be taken to get to the ideal future state outlined in the Outcomes and are specific to each Element.

The focus of the meeting was on the outcomes. Future meetings will focus on creating actions.

Proposed Roadmap Element Outcomes

The department presented the proposed Outcomes for each Element.

Working Group members asked questions throughout the presentation and provided feedback after the meeting. Through this discussion feedback was received for the department to consider and revise the Outcomes. A broad range of topics and viewpoints, and the needs of specific priority populations were discussed in the feedback.

Length of time for Roadmap actions

The Working Group was asked to consider the length of time for the roadmap. The options were:

- Option 1: 7 years
- Option 2: 10 years

The advantages and disadvantages of the two options were discussed. Option 1 would align with Australia's Disability Strategy; however, it would mean less time to implement actions. Option 2 would not align with Australia's Disability Strategy; however, it would allow additional time to implement actions.

The Working Group gave clear feedback that the preferred timeframe is 10 years to allow more time to implement actions.

Next step

Following the meeting the department emailed presentations for meeting 6 and circulated the draft Outcomes and possible actions for feedback.

The Working Group will reconvene on 21 May to discuss revised Guiding Principles, revised Element Outcomes and Actions and Restrictive Practices.