



25 March 2024

Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee

Meeting 3

Communiqué

The third meeting of the Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee (the IOC) was held on Monday 25 March 2024 at 9:30am (AEDT) face-to-face in Canberra and via videoconference.

The IOC was co-chaired by Dr Liz Develin, Deputy Secretary, Primary and Community Care Group, and Ms Penny Shakespeare, Deputy Secretary, Health Resourcing Group, from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (the department). Organisations represented on the IOC are at [Attachment 1](#).

Strengthening Medicare Taskforce Briefing

Dr Walid Jammal and Dr Steve Hambleton provided members with their insights into the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce (the Taskforce), in the context of primary care reform, including Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-32.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Strengthening Medicare Reforms

The department informed members about the continuing development of the Strengthening Medicare Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This will monitor progress and measure the impact of the Government's Strengthening Medicare reforms, and assist with the effective and coordinated implementation of a large set of complex and interrelated initiatives.

Members discussed the Framework and how further refinements would be made, including identifying sentinel indicators for measuring overall progress of reforms and their impacts, and reviewing and refining the program logic and measurement data sources.

MyMedicare and related programs

The department provided members with an update on the current implementation of MyMedicare, General Practice in Aged Care Incentive (GPACI) and Wraparound Care for Frequent Hospital Users (FHU).

Members discussed feedback from the sector on MyMedicare implementation and the importance of providing support for the registration process to ensure patients are able to make fully informed choices. Members also discussed challenges in access to services in regional and remote areas, and ensuring the department continues working with key stakeholders, including states and territories, in co-designing the model of care and incentive payments.



Scope of Practice Review

Professor Mark Cormack and Professor Lisa Nissen provided members with an update on the Scope of Practice Review, including key findings, emerging themes from the Phase 2

(Issues Paper 1) consultation. Members discussed funding policy, education and training, employer practices and settings, and technology.

Working Better for Medicare Review

Professor Sabina Knight and Adjunct Professor Mick Reid informed members the Working Better for Medicare Review, which aims to examine the distribution mechanisms used by Government to better target health workforce programs and direct health professionals to areas of greatest need.

Next meeting

13 September 2024.



Attachment 1:

Member organisations in attendance

Organisation
Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA)
Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM)
Australian College of Midwives (ACM)
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) Medical Benefits Review Advisory Committee
Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
Australian Medical Association (AMA)
Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative (Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia)
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)
Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)
Australian Primary Healthcare Nurses Association (APNA)
Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)
Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)
Consumers Health Queensland (First Nations consumer representative organisation)
COTA Australia
Department of Health Tasmania (on behalf of states and territories)
Department of Health Victoria (on behalf of states and territories)
Healthdirect Australia
Independent Advisor
Independent Academic Economist
LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
National Rural Health Commissioner
People with Disability Australia
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA)
Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (on behalf of Primary Health Networks)