



# Intellectual Disability Health Education and Training Expert Advisory Group Meeting Summary

11 July 2024

## Introduction

The Chair, Prof Nick Lennox, welcomed members to the ninth meeting of the Intellectual Disability Health Education and Training Expert Advisory Group (Advisory Group) and gave an Acknowledgment of Country. The Chair read the confidentiality declaration and no additional conflicts were declared by members other than those already provided to the secretariat.

The Chair thanked Advisory Group members for providing feedback on the resource development work to support the Framework, noting this action item is complete. The remaining action item from the 31 October meeting relating to a 2024 meeting is noted by the secretariat and meeting placeholders will be sent out for the year ahead. Members had no further comments on action items or the previous meeting summary.

## Update on the Curriculum Development Project

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) advised that the Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework (the Framework) has been published on the department's website at: [The Intellectual Disability Health Capability Framework | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#).

Alongside this, Easy Read resources have been developed as well as a promotional video featuring members from the Intellectual Disability Focus Group. These will be published on the department's website shortly.

The department has prepared a draft communication strategy to promote the Framework to key stakeholder groups to support uptake and implementation. Feedback on the draft communications messaging was sought from Advisory Group members, who raised the following points:

- Key messaging should highlight what the problem is we are trying to solve, such as facts on hospitalisation and avoidable deaths for people with intellectual disability.
- Noting that the government response to the Disability Royal Commission will be released soon, linking this work into the key messaging will help drive change.
- Tailor messages for people with intellectual disability to focus on how the Framework can be used and how it is relevant to people with intellectual disability and their support networks.
- Circulating messaging from the most senior level of the department possible will demonstrate it has strong government support.
- Terminology should be reviewed to ensure the term "health profession education" is used, rather than "health education".
- There would be value in an active process of evaluation to determine whether messaging has influenced uptake and whether this has led to updated curriculum and standards. Uptake will be slow due to the nature of curriculum and standards review processes and will likely take multiple years to measure outcomes. The current Curriculum Development Project evaluation is looking at short term outcomes.

Additional discussion on future promotional strategies highlighted the following points:

- Future messaging should emphasise practical tools and examples that can assist education providers to develop curriculum and assessments.
- A representative from the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum offered to develop a press release to promote the Framework to their networks.
- Other promotional avenues might include targeted media like The Conversation, Croakey and the Power to Persuade. Opportunities to promote the Framework in student placement settings should also be considered.

The department will incorporate feedback into revised key messaging and planned communication over the next 12 months. The department will also develop accessible messaging targeted at people with intellectual disability and their support networks.

Members were encouraged to provide any additional feedback to [IntellectualDisability@Health.gov.au](mailto:IntellectualDisability@Health.gov.au)

## Resource Development project

The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry, University of New South Wales (UNSW), provided an update on the resource development work, including an overview of findings from accreditation and education consultations and introducing the accreditation promotion plan.

UNSW have undertaken consultations with education and accreditation sectors to understand the best way these groups can utilise the Framework. These consultations provided information on barriers and facilitators, benefits of implementing the Framework, options for integration into accreditation standards and curricula, and resources required to support integration.

UNSW have developed an accreditation support and promotion plan for the accreditation sector, informed by the consultation findings. This plan will be accompanied by a promotional video which includes the perspectives of a person with lived experience of intellectual disability, a student, and a health professional.

Members raised the following points in response to the presentation:

- Learn from the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework](#) as a precedent.
- Uptake of the Framework is more likely to occur if it is promoted by accreditation representatives through their own internal networks (e.g. accreditation authorities to accreditation authorities).
- Support accreditation authorities to learn from each other about implementation.
- Student placements through disability and allied health organisations are an opportunity for promotion. Unstructured placement of students in settings with people with intellectual disability can negatively impact on student attitudes and perpetuate negative stereotypes.

The department agreed to investigate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework further internally, with the potential to identify a speaker to present to the group at a future meeting.

A separate and detailed promotion plan for the education sector is due to be delivered in 2025.

Members were invited to provide any further feedback on consultations or ideas to promote the Framework to the accreditation sector to the department to [IntellectualDisability@Health.gov.au](mailto:IntellectualDisability@Health.gov.au). The PowerPoint presentation will be circulated following the meeting.

## Any other business

The Interim Chair, Prof Nick Lennox, proposed to continue as the Chair in a permanent capacity. Members agreed to this proposed approach, and the secretariat will update Terms of Reference circulated for endorsement by all members.

The next meeting will be held in September 2024. A placeholder will be circulated before the date.

## Next Steps/Action Items

Reference	Action Item
120624-1	The department to investigate connecting with staff who developed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework Curriculum Framework
120624-2	The department to circulate resource development PowerPoint presentation.