



## UPDATE FROM INDEPENDENT REVIEW LEAD PROFESSOR MARK CORMACK

Since our last update, the Scope of Practice Review team has made significant progress on the deliverables for this review, all of which would not be possible without the support and involvement of all our stakeholders.

### Highlights of Phase 3

Phase 3 of the Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce (Scope of Practice) Review commenced with the release of Issues Paper 2 on 16 April 2024. Phase 3 of the Review consultations were held from April-June 2024 via an online submission process, face-to-face and virtual targeted consultations.

Participants met with the same enthusiasm as Phase 1 and 2 consultations, this time engaging in deep-dive discussions on the proposed reforms in Issues Paper 2. It was great to see many who were involved in the previous consultations, as well as new perspectives being brought to the table.

The insights arising from the table discussions echoed across multiple forums, with important considerations highlighted by stakeholders, some included:

- The value for interprofessional trust and workforce planning.
- A significant cultural shift required to embrace multidisciplinary learning.
- The need to recognise close relationships between primary care and other healthcare sectors.
- Starting with community need in regard to legislation and regulation harmonisation and reform.

Since we began the project and up till the end of Phase 3 we have:

- received 1,135 submissions.
- held 31 structured consultation sessions attended by over 700 people.
- conducted over 100 targeted consultation sessions with over 200 organisations/individual stakeholder groups.

The Review's extensive public consultations have provided fulsome and meaningful contributions to the Review. Throughout the consultations we endeavoured to capture the voices of health professionals and consumers to ensure the proposed reforms reflect the needs of the Australian health system.

### Consultation Workshop of the Expert Advisory Committee

The Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) representatives for the Scope of Practice Review met on Wednesday, 26 June 2024 in Canberra as part of Phase 3 consultations. The face-to-face workshop was supported by the Scope of Practice Review research partners The University of Queensland (UQ) and KPMG.

Myself as Chair and the research partners facilitated the workshop via concurrent table-group discussions on the themes outlined in Issues Paper 2: Workforce design, development, and planning; Legislation and regulation; and Funding payment and policy.

The table-group discussion format enabled in-depth discussion on each of the proposed reform options within Issues Paper 2.

Members provided their expertise and advice on the proposed reform options, and the overall direction and implementation considerations for the Scope of Practice Review. The workshop concluded with a summary of the table-group discussions and the proposed next steps for the Committee. Members briefly discussed timeframes and priorities for implementation in relation to the proposed reform options, noting these details are ultimately dependant on Government priorities.

Some key points raised were:

- The importance of leadership and change management to be included in the reform agenda.
- Agreements on the scope for any changes to existing IT infrastructure need to be established.
- Establishment of an independent mechanism is a first priority to support leadership and relationship building in the early stages of implementation.

The next meeting will be this month to seek Members expertise, insights and advice on the review's Draft Final Report and draft recommendations.

### Moving into the final stage of the review (Phase 4)

Phase 3 of the Review is now complete, and as we head into the final stage of the Review, the focus has shifted to the final report.

Stakeholder insights and contributions have been invaluable to the review. Previous phases sought submissions to help us understand the broad perspectives from a range of professions, organisations, and communities. In the coming weeks I will be inviting targeted comments, mainly focused on identifying potential factual errors or inconsistencies within the Draft Final Report and will be engaging in targeted stakeholder meetings. Further communications will follow.

### Next steps

We remain committed to a transparent and inclusive review process and will continue to keep you updated leading up to the delivery of the final report. The final report is on track to be provided to Government in October 2024.

If you would like to be added to the review's contact list, please email [scopeofpracticereview@health.gov.au](mailto:scopeofpracticereview@health.gov.au).

Thank you for your dedication, insight, and willingness to contribute to this important work.

Best regards

Mark Cormack

Independent Review Lead

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