



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

Autism Health Roadmap Working Group Meeting 7

The Autism 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).

Meeting 7 (21 May 2024)

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by the chair and one of the Working Group deputy co-chairs.

The meeting was opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting 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.

Revised Autism Health Roadmap Guiding Principles

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

The Autism Health Roadmap consists of three related levels:

- 1) The Guiding Principles and Focus Areas¹, which define the overall scope of the project.
- 2) Outcomes- which are the ideal future state and will be linked to the relevant individual Focus Areas and
- 3) Actions- which are the steps that need to be taken to get to the ideal future state outlined in the Outcomes and are specific to each Focus Areas.

With the release of the National Autism Strategy the Guiding Principles for the Autism Health Roadmap have been revised to align with the National Autism Strategy.

Members were invited to discuss the revised Guiding Principles and provide feedback during the meeting. Working group members provided valuable feedback, covering a broad range of topics and viewpoints, and the needs of specific priority populations. All feedback was taken on board and considered by the department to make additional updates to the Guiding Principles.

¹ Note that the Focus Areas were previously referred to as 'Elements'.

Proposed Roadmap Focus Areas Outcomes and Actions

The department presented the proposed Outcomes for each Focus Area, following changes made after the previous meeting, and requested any new feedback not previously discussed. Some feedback was provided for consideration by the department.

This presentation focused on the Proposed Actions for each Focus Area. Working group members provided significant feedback, this feedback was taken on board and considered by the department and used to make updates to the Actions in the draft Autism Health Roadmap.

Restrictive Practices

[Content warning](#)

Autistic members of the Working Group emphasised the importance of working towards the elimination of restrictive practices. They stressed that governments and practitioners must prioritise the human rights of Autistic individuals and work harder to address these concerns.

The department has engaged with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care on restrictive practices. Some materials from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care were presented and additional information was provided after the meeting.

Next step

Following the meeting the department emailed presentations for meeting 7. The Working Group will reconvene on 11 June to discuss the first draft of the Autism Health Roadmap.