



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

Autism Health Roadmap Working Group Meeting 9

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 9 (15 October 2024)

Introduction

The meeting was opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting and an acknowledgement of country was made.

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

Update on the process for developing the Autism Health Roadmap

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) provided a summary of the Autism Health Roadmap development since its creation in October 2022 including:

- First Working Group meeting in May 2023
- Completion of the co-design project in February 2024; led by Autism CRC
- Creation of the draft Autism Health Roadmap
- Review of the draft Autism Health Roadmap by the Working Group and endorsement by the Minister for Health and Aged Care before the Public Consultation during August and September 2024

There will be two more meetings of the Working Group following this one, as the project will conclude in December 2024.

Initial findings from public consultation

A total of 313 submissions were received to the public consultation. Members of the public were able to provide this feedback in a range of formats, including:

- Survey
 - Long form (216 responses submitted)
 - Short form (48 responses submitted)
 - Easy Read (2 responses submitted)
- Email submissions (47 responses submitted).

The meeting covered the initial findings from the consultation. Topics covered included the key themes for the Autism Health Roadmap overall, Guiding Principles and Focus Areas, as well as the key themes from organisational submissions.

It was noted that some of the feedback received was out of scope and will be referred to the National Autism Strategy.

Working Group members provided feedback on the themes and discussed a broad range of topics and viewpoints, including the needs of specific priority populations.

Next step

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

Following the meeting the department emailed the presentations for meeting 9. The Working Group will reconvene on 11 November 2024.