



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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## Multicultural Health Advisory Group

Meeting: 16 June 2025

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The Multicultural Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its first meeting for the year on Monday 16 June 2025.

### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department) welcomed members to the first meeting for 2025.

Members formally endorsed the revised terms of reference and the group's new name to 'Multicultural Health Advisory Group'. The department thanked members for their valuable input in shaping these updates.

Members reviewed and provided rich comments and feedback on the draft work plan. The department will consider and incorporate members' comments into the draft workplan where possible and seek endorsement at the next meeting. The work plan is intended to be a live document, with updates made throughout the Advisory Group's term.

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), in collaboration with Monash University, presented a value paper on building [meaningful partnerships with young people](#) from multicultural backgrounds. The paper highlighted how such partnerships can enhance the effectiveness of programs and policies and included recommendations and reflective insights to support genuine engagement with young people.

The Health and Social Care Unit at Monash University presented findings from the Cancer Screening Evaluation Report. The report evaluated the *Screening saves lives: Better information for better health* campaign, funded by the department. The presentation showcased the engagement activities led by multicultural peak organisations to promote participation by multicultural communities in the three national cancer screening programs—bowel, breast, and cervical. It highlighted self-reported improvements in knowledge and increased intention to participate in screening among multicultural communities. The presentation also emphasised that successful engagement was underpinned by key enablers such as strong community appetite and established relationships, and supported by critical approaches including safety and comfort, trust, consultation and co-design, capacity building, and flexibility and creativity—with safety and trust identified as foundational to effective program delivery. It also included an exploration of the key challenges and barriers experienced and some learnings to help inform future engagement efforts.

### NEXT STEPS

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2025.

See [Multicultural Health Advisory Group](#) and [terms of reference](#) for more information.