



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM):

Communique

13 June 2025 – Melbourne

Health Ministers and Mental Health ministers held a joint meeting today in Melbourne to reaffirm their collective commitment to national action supporting mental health and suicide prevention priorities. Health Ministers also met to discuss several health system reform priorities including health workforce, NHRA negotiations and regulation of the assistive reproductive technology sector.

Mental Health

Ministers met with lived experience and sector representatives who provided expert advice on matters including Child and Youth Mental Health, Psychosocial Supports, Cross-Border Information Sharing and the Mental Health Workforce. The Joint Health and Mental Health Ministers' Communique can be found [here](#).

National Health Reform Agreement

Health Ministers remain aligned in their commitment to finalise negotiations for a new multi-year National Health Reform Agreement and related disability reforms by the end of the year.

Independent Review of complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS)

Independent Reviewer Sue Dawson briefed Health Ministers on key findings of her Review ahead of the release of the final report in July 2025. The Review recommendations will focus on improving how the scheme makes decisions and deals with complaints about health practitioners, and consider how it can expand and grow to meet future needs. It aims to improve regulatory outcomes and keep Australians safe by providing high-quality health care.

Briefing from Ahpra's new CEO

Health Ministers were briefed by Ahpra's new CEO, Justin Untersteiner, who commenced in the role in April 2025. Mr Untersteiner outlined his priorities and vision for Ahpra to be a contemporary and responsive regulator that responds to changing needs of the community and practitioners. Mr Untersteiner also acknowledged the anticipated reforms to the schemes in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in response to the Complexity Review.

Proposal to review the Australasian Health facility guidelines

Health Ministers endorsed a proposal to review the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines. The review will look for opportunities to improve efficiencies in the building of health infrastructure

while also ensuring high quality health facilities for all consumers. The review will be undertaken by an independent reviewer and will report back to HMM.

Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology Sector

Health Ministers discussed the safety and transparency of the assisted reproductive technology (ART) and in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) sector, following growing public concern. Ministers have requested Health Chief Executives undertake a rapid review of the regulatory and accreditation environment for the ART and IVF sectors and identify opportunities for improvement and action to be reported back within 3 months, including:

- a. Options for implementation of an independent accreditation body and process;
- b. Consideration of how existing state based regulatory regimes could be strengthened;
and
- c. Consideration of whether a national regulatory approach would deliver benefit.

Private hospital sector

Health Ministers discussed the importance of all stakeholders contributing to an orderly sale process of the Healthscope Private Hospital Group, ensuring that the interests of patients and healthcare workers are prioritised. Ministers supported the Commonwealth leading the coordination of patient and workforce assurance activities relating to the sale process. The Commonwealth will continue to closely monitor developments and work closely with States and Territories and other stakeholders.