



7 August 2025

Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee

Meeting 5

Communiqué

The fifth meeting of the Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee (the IOC) was held on Thursday 7 August September 2024 via videoconference.

The IOC was co-chaired by Dr Liz Develin, Deputy Secretary, Primary and Community Care Group and Ms Penny Shakespeare, Deputy Secretary, Health Resourcing Group, from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department).

Organisations represented at the IOC meeting are at Attachment 1.

Strengthening Medicare governance arrangements

The department advised members of updates made to Strengthening Medicare governance arrangements to support the expanded Strengthening Medicare reforms and broader primary care reform agenda. The updated terms of reference for the Committee were also discussed.

Update on announcements for Strengthening Medicare

The department provided members with an update on the Australian Government's 2025-26 Budget commitments that strengthen Medicare, with a particular focus on bulk billing, Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, women's healthcare initiatives, and health workforce initiatives relating to general practitioners, nursing, and midwifery professionals.

Update on Primary Care and Workforce Reviews Taskforce

The department provided an update on the formation of an internal taskforce in January 2025, to provide integrated primary care reform advice to government based on recommendations from four reviews: the Review of General Practice Incentives, A Better After-hours System, Scope of Practice Review and Working Better for Medicare Review.

The taskforce has established an Expert Panel comprised of representatives and individuals from across the primary care sector, to discuss options for advice to government. Their current focus is on refining reform proposals, including implementation strategies and sequencing options and coordinating effort across the department on areas covered by the reviews.

Update on Strengthening Medicare Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The department provided members with an update on the Framework which was finalised in December 2024 and published on the department's website in January 2025.

The Framework adopts a flexible approach to monitoring and evaluation of Strengthening Medicare and its implementation is underway.

Next meeting

13 November 2025.



Attachment 1: Members/ Organisations in attendance

Name

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA)
Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM)
Australian College of Midwives (ACM)
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) Medical Benefits Review Advisory Committee (observing)
Australian Medical Association (AMA)
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)
Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)
Australian Primary Healthcare Nurses Association (APNA)
Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)
Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)
COTA Australia
Department of Health, Tasmania (on behalf of states and territories)
Department of Health, Victoria (on behalf of states and territories)
Gippsland Primary Health Network (on behalf of Primary Health Networks)
Healthdirect Australia
Independent Advisors
LGBTQI+ Health Australia
Mental Health Australia (MHA)
Mental Health Carers Australia (MHCA)
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
National Mental Health Consumer Alliance (NMHCA)
Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner
People with Disability Australia (PWDA)
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA)