



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Allied Health Industry Reference Group Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 15, Tuesday, 2 September 2025

Australian Parliament House, Canberra

The Australian Government Chief Allied Health Officer (CAHO) Chaired the 15th Allied Health Industry Reference Group (AHIRG) meeting, at Parliament House, Canberra, on 2 September 2025. The Hon Rebecca White MP, Assistant Minister for Women, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, hosted the meeting. Invitations to the meeting were extended to the broader allied health sector.

Topics discussed:

- The CAHO welcomed attendees and reviewed previous action items
 - Nil Conflicts of Interest declared.
- The First Assistant Secretary of the Primary Care Division from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) provided an update on the primary care sector. This was in respect to existing and developing policy, reforms and funding priorities, and the relevance to allied health and its role in primary care.
 - Topics included Primary care in Australia, the work of the Primary Care and Workforce Reviews Taskforce, Primary Health Networks (PHNs), Medicare Urgent Care Clinics Program, and the National Allied Health Workforce Strategy.
 - Members discussed:
 - Clinical representation on the Strategy Advisory Group and within AHIRG
 - Dawson review on NRAS complexity.
- The CAHO provided an update on ongoing projects:
 - The National Allied Health Workforce Strategy has been endorsed by the Steering Group to commence the government approval process.
 - 30 of 31 PHNs are implementing the PHN Commissioning of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) Program and the first reporting on these activities was undertaken by PHNs in August 2025.
 - The Australian Healthcare Associates have been engaged to undertake an evaluation of the Free Interpreting Service for Allied Health Professionals Program. The final report is due in December 2025. Consultation with allied health professionals is taking place over the next couple of months and the CAHO encouraged participation.
 - The MBS Chronic Disease Review is underway, with consultations scheduled for quarters 2 and 3 of 2026.
 - Campaign activities to support the National Early Intervention Service (NEIS) roll out are yet to be determined. The campaign will be informed by market research currently underway and developed in line with the Australian Government's advertising guidelines. Campaign timing and elements are subject to government review and approval. From early 2026, the Department will be distributing health professional communications and materials, and these will be shared with our stakeholders, including the Allied Health Industry Reference Group, when available.
 - Members discussed:

- Governance oversight of PHN Commissioning of the MDT program to ensure there is no duplication or lack of variation, and to inform future projects.
 - Support for expansion of the FIS program outside of the current eligible LGAs.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Health Workforce Division and Senior Director of the Health Workforce Data Intelligence Unit from the Department presented on workforce demand mapping for allied health professions, including medical radiation practitioners and psychologists. This included:
 - Discussion on allied health supply and demand modelling
 - The challenges of collecting data for self-regulated professions and from privately funded providers.
- The Strategy and Policy Branch of the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency)) and Digital Health Strategy Branch from the Department presented on the future state of allied health and digital and data reforms
 - The Agency, in partnership with the Department and supported by Allied Health Professions Australia is developing a National Allied Health Digital Uplift Plan. This forms part of the implementation of the 2023–2028 National Digital Health Strategy and Delivery Roadmap. It also supports the Commonwealth’s 2023-2033 Digital Health Blueprint and Action Plan. The Plan is anticipated to be finalised delivered by the end of 2025.
 - Members discussed:
 - Healthcare Identifiers in the Legislative Framework Reform
 - Incentives for allied health software vendors to develop conformant systems; an overview of the Agency’s Allied Health Industry Offer (launched in September 2024) was provided.
- The New Aged Care Act Transition Branch and the Assessment Home Care Transition Branch from the Department presented on the New Aged Care Act and Support at Home program-sector readiness. This included:
 - Key changes in the new Aged Care Act for Allied Health practitioners’ awareness
 - E-learning modules supporting the new Aged Care Act are being released in stages. Modules 1 and 2 are already [available](#). Module 3, which targets providers and workers, will be delivered in three separate releases and will be complemented by a number of webinars. The next step is to seek allied health input on the design of Releases 2 and 3 of Module 3. Module 4 is anticipated to be delivered early to mid-December 2025.
 - Role of Allied Health Professionals in Support at Home (for older people considering access to government-funded aged care services and participants of Support-at-Home, Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM) scheme, Restorative Care Pathway and End-of-Life Pathway)
 - Request to members:
 - If you are interested in providing feedback on training modules, particularly how the modules could be designed to include allied health content so that assessors, providers and older people understand the role of allied health in aged care. Please contact NACChange@health.gov.au.
 - Members discussed:
 - Interest in providing feedback on training modules, particularly how the modules could be designed specifically for allied health professionals.
- Assistant Minister White attended and spent time engaging in conversations with members and addressing the Group.
- The Primary Care Workforce Reviews Taskforce from the Department sought input from the group to shape Taskforce advice to Government late in 2025.

- Topics included: facilitating multidisciplinary primary care, the impact of reform on the sector, and the opportunities and challenges with workforce distribution and primary care access
- Members discussed:
 - Collocation vs Integrated Models of Care
 - Care Coordination in Primary Care settings
 - Scope of Practice, Skills Matrix and Interprofessional Education.

Actions Register

Meeting date	Item No.	Action	Action Officer	Status
2/09/25	1	PHNs to give MDT project updates at the collaborative meeting in November	Commonwealth CAHO	Pending
02/09/25	2	Facilitate discussions between the allied health sector and the Health Workforce Data Intelligence Unit	Commonwealth CAHO	Pending
02/09/25	3	Circulate slides for workforce demand mapping item and basic workforce modelling methodology with attendees	Commonwealth CAHO	Actioned
02/09/25	4	Send feedback survey to attendees regarding the meeting	Commonwealth CAHO	Actioned