

Thriving Kids Advisory Group Communique

Melbourne, 30 September 2025

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Disability and the NDIS, and Professor Frank Oberklaid AM co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Thriving Kids Advisory Group today in Melbourne.

The Advisory Group includes experts from across the fields of paediatrics, child development, research, disability, child and family services, health care, those with lived experience, early education and schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. These experts will provide advice on the design of Thriving Kids.

Discussion covered objectives and key design principles for Thriving Kids and reflected on previous reviews and existing frameworks. They discussed the existing service landscape and workforce, including Commonwealth programs and initiatives that could be scaled or complement Thriving Kids.

The Advisory Group acknowledged that there is significant design work still to be completed. They recognised that a range of supports will be required, particularly recognising the diversity of needs and cohorts including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, rural, regional and remote and CALD Communities.

The Advisory Group agreed to explore the intersection with existing and planned state and territory initiatives at their next meeting, to support alignment, shared learning, and collaborative design across jurisdictions.

They noted that the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Thriving Kids](#) is taking submissions now. This provides an avenue for a broad range of stakeholders and those with lived experience to inform the design.

Evidence from the Inquiry and conversations with key stakeholders including those with lived experience will be fed into the work of the Advisory Group, which is looking to providing advice by the end of 2025.

For further information, please contact the Thriving Kids Secretariat at ThrivingKidsSecretariat@health.gov.au