

Thriving Kids Advisory Group Communique

Adelaide, 7 November 2025

On 7 November 2025, the Thriving Kids Advisory Group held its second meeting in Adelaide. The meeting was co-chaired by the Hon Mark Butler MP and Professor Frank Oberklaid AM.

At the meeting, members reflected on the deep dives held with stakeholders and discussed initial thinking on an overarching model for Thriving Kids, including potential service principles that could underpin the model while responding to the diverse needs of children and families across Australia.

Members considered potential identification, assessment and referral points for children and families within the Thriving Kids model. Discussion focused on ensuring these processes are inclusive, culturally responsive, strengths-based, neuro affirming and trauma informed and effective in identifying children who may benefit from additional support.

Members also explored the universal and targeted supports and programs that could be delivered through Thriving Kids. Discussion focused on options for providing universal and accessible information and guidance to families, while highlighting the value of early engagement and support approaches. The group also considered models of targeted supports, including what opportunities are provided to expand universal, MBS health and development check, and community and Allied Health services. The meeting explored the need for tailored supports that respond to the complexity of children's developmental and social needs, and the well-being of parents and families.

Dr Mike Freeland MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP, Chair and Deputy Chair of the House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability inquiry into the Thriving Kids initiative also provided an update to members on the inquiry. There has been a high level of engagement with over 400 submissions.

The meeting concluded with agreement on next steps, including deeper engagement with state and territory government initiatives, and on early childhood education and schools. The Advisory Group will also further engage with those with lived experience.

The Advisory Group will meet again in early December 2025 to finalise its advice on the design of Thriving Kids.

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