



13 November 2025

## **Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee Meeting 6 Communiqué**

The sixth meeting of the Strengthening Medicare Implementation Oversight Committee (the IOC) was held face-to-face in Canberra on Thursday 13 November 2025.

The IOC was chaired by Dr Liz Develin, Deputy Secretary, Primary and Community Care Group, from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Organisations represented at the IOC meeting are at [Attachment 1](#).

Members discussed progress of below outlined reforms that strengthen Medicare.

### **MyMedicare**

The Department of Health Disability and Ageing (the department) provided members information on patient and practice uptake of MyMedicare. Discussion included patient demographic data, focussing on inclusivity of demographic data, potential future enhancements, and success factors.

### **Medicare Urgent Care Clinics**

Members discussed the progress of the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics program, including its operational status (noting 90 clinics are operational), evaluation underway, and program improvements.

### **Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program (BBPIP)**

The department provided members with an update on the program detailing eligibility for participation in the BBPIP, the availability of a suite of resources on the department's website, including the [Bulk Billing Incentives calculator](#), as well as the [registration process via Services Australia](#) for practices to participate in the Program.

### **1800MEDICARE**

The department and Healthdirect provided members with an update on the 1800MEDICARE initiative - a free, nationally consistent entry point for urgent, non-emergency health advice and connection to the right care, first time. The service will be accessible to everyone throughout Australia via phone, website, or app.

### **Commissioning of Multidisciplinary Teams in Primary Care**

The department presented on this measure describing the program that funds Primary Health Networks to commission services such as allied health, nursing, midwifery, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers to support small or solo general practices to increase patient access to the care they need in their communities. Members discussed the program model, as well as sustainability and distribution challenges to avoid fragmentation of care.

### **Medicare Mental Health Check In**

The department introduced the Medicare Mental Health Check In (previously the National Early Intervention Service), outlining its digital delivery model, target population, referral pathways and proposed evaluation plan.

### **Primary Care Health Workforce Campaign**

The department presented on the campaign, sharing insights on campaign objectives, audience, media performance, and lessons learned.



### **Primary Care and Workforce Reviews Taskforce**

The department presented on the work being led by the internal taskforce, initially formed in January 2025. Members discussed ongoing policy reform consultations covering 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.

Discussion focussed on digital and data priorities, ongoing engagement with regulatory and professional bodies, and change management.

### **Next meeting**

20 May 2026.



**Attachment 1: Members/ Organisations in attendance**

<b>Members/ Organisations in attendance</b>
Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA)
Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM)
Australian College of Midwives (ACM)
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), and 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)
Brisbane North Primary Health Network (on behalf of Primary Health Networks)
Health Consumers Queensland
Healthdirect Australia
Independent Advisors
LGBTQI+ Health Australia
Mental Health Australia (MHA)
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
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)