



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM): *Communique* **13 February 2026 – Canberra**

Joint Health and Mental Health Ministers' Meeting Communique

Health and Mental Health Ministers met in Canberra today to reaffirm their commitment to progress mental health and suicide prevention priorities. Ministers reflected on the recent natural disasters that have occurred across the country and the tragic events at Bondi Beach last year. They expressed concern for all those affected and recognised the profound distress and mental health impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

Psychosocial Supports

Ministers acknowledged the continued calls by sector and lived experience peaks, including through the Productivity Commission's (PC) Final Review of the National Agreement (Final Review), to improve access to psychosocial supports across the country. All jurisdictions confirmed funding for psychosocial supports will be maintained, including in a future national agreement. Ministers commissioned additional work to increase national coordination of psychosocial supports, including for those with severe mental health challenges. Ministers noted that during the next stage of work on foundational supports that psychosocial supports will be considered and acknowledged the interplay with eligibility for psychosocial supports within the NDIS. Ministers noted consultations on future arrangements for psychosocial support services with lived experience and sector representatives.

Some states and territories have identified a decline in approvals for consumers seeking NDIS packages for psychosocial disability and with that the need to ensure psychosocial support needs are met.

Child and Youth Mental Health

Ministers considered the national stocktake of activities aligned to the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and noted significant efforts across all jurisdictions to improve policy and programs for children. Ministers also noted efforts towards the age harmonisation of mental health services and recognised the implementation challenges to achieve this nationally. Ministers recognise there is a need for sustained effort to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Cross Jurisdictional Consistency

Ministers discussed the progress of all states and territories to improve data sharing arrangements and consistency across jurisdictions and agreed that best endeavours will be made to progress legislative or administrative changes that enable the Mutual Recognition of Mental Health Orders by 1 January 2027. Ministers agreed to decommission the National Standards for Mental Health Services (2010) in favour of a formal transition to the relevant Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care service standards, which support safe and quality mental health service delivery.

Next steps towards future national mental health and suicide prevention arrangements

Informed by the PC Final Review, Ministers discussed the development of a potential new agreement, including preliminary considerations on scope, timeframes, and clarifying roles and responsibilities between governments.

Ministers thanked sector leaders, people with lived experience, family, carers and kin representatives, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners for their early advice on preparing for future national arrangements. Ministers agreed to prioritise the development of the next National Agreement.

Ministers also acknowledged the calls to progress a National Mental Health Declaration recommended by the PC to provide a long-term vision for reform. At this stage Ministers agreed to prioritise work on the National Agreement.

Medicare Mental Health Centres Update

Fifty-three Medicare Mental Health Centres are open across Australia providing free mental health services and support. Following the Bondi terrorist attack in December 2025, a Medicare Mental Health Centre in Bondi opened on 29 January 2026, with a specific focus on trauma support. From 1 July 2024 to 30 November 2025 there have been 237,046 occasions of care.