



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM): *Communique* **1 May 2026 – Virtual**

Health Ministers' Meeting Communique

Health Ministers met today to discuss health system reform priorities, including combating racism and discrimination, including antisemitism, in health settings, endometriosis care, and addressing delayed discharge of hospital patients.

Improving First Nations Health Care in Prisons

Health Ministers agreed that the Commonwealth will support proposals with jurisdictions wishing to trial new or expanded Sector-led healthcare in prisons and youth detention facilities in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. Proposals can be funded through the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) Schedule B First Nations Health Reform Fund (Reform Fund).

Ministers also received an update on the progress of the Implementation Approach for the National Review of First Nations Health Care in Prisons (2023-2024).

The Commonwealth will also provide \$14.5 million over three years, from 2026-27, for the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to develop and commence delivery of a community-controlled transition care program for First Nations people exiting places of detention.

Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism

Health Ministers received a briefing from Ms Jillian Segal AO, Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism. Health Ministers discussed the importance of a national approach on addressing antisemitism. The discussion highlighted the need to protect democratic values and freedom of speech, particularly to ensure patient and workforce safety in the health system.

Update on improving the health practitioner response to racism and discrimination, including antisemitism

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) provided an update to Health Ministers on the actions it has taken in response to *Ministerial Policy Direction 2025-1 Improving the Health Practitioner Response to Racism and Discrimination, including*

Antisemitism. Health Ministers asked that Ahpra publish its action plan on its website and provide regular reports on its progress.

Responses to unsatisfactory endometriosis care and pelvic pain

Ministers noted that the Commonwealth and Victorian governments have implemented immediate measures to support patients of the former gynaecologist Simon Gordon. The supports were informed by consultation with impacted women.

Ministers committed to continuing collaborative efforts to identify opportunities to strengthen safety and accountability within the healthcare system to prevent future patient harm and improve care for women living with endometriosis and pelvic pain. This included tasking the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) to lead work to identify strategies to improve intelligence sharing, support proactive monitoring, strengthen clinical governance, strengthen the framework for credentialing and support informed decision-making for consumers. ACSQHC will work with all governments and other key stakeholders, and report back to Health Ministers in 2027.

The Commission will also release its new *National Model for Clinical Governance* – which will apply to all public and private hospitals and day procedure services in the future and support a safer system. Health services are encouraged to implement the new model within their organisations as soon as possible, supported by the Commission.

Health Ministers reinforced their expectation that clinicians follow relevant clinical guidelines and pathways and that clinicians and employers meet their obligation to notify Ahpra if they believe another practitioner is placing the public at risk by departing from accepted professional standards.

The pervading culture of silence cannot continue.

Secretary-led Joint Hospital Discharge Taskforce

Health Ministers noted the states and territories data on delayed discharge of older patients awaiting residential aged care home placement which is showing no signs of easing. Health Ministers also noted that hospitals are not the best care setting for patients that have been cleared for discharge.

Health Ministers agreed to establish a Secretary-led Hospital Discharge Joint Taskforce to oversee a coordinated approach to improve the safe and timely transition of people discharged from public hospitals including into aged care, disability or other community care systems. Ministers directed the Taskforce to progress work on the immediate priorities to

address delayed discharge of older persons. The Taskforce will provide its first report back to Health Ministers within 6 months.

The Independent Review of complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) Final Report

Health Ministers made their final response to NRAS Complexity Review *Transforming health professions regulation in Australia* with a focus on consumer responsiveness, sustainability of the National Scheme and a proportionate regulatory response.

Health Ministers agreed that the Health Workforce Taskforce will provide oversight of implementation of accepted actions, including the required resourcing.

The full response from Health Ministers to each action is available on the Health Workforce Taskforce website at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/health-workforce-taskforce-news-updates?language=en>.

Use of Drivers Licence to Increase Organ Donation

Health Ministers discussed opportunities to increase organ donor registrations nationwide. Ministers agreed further work to increase registration and consent for donation will be considered to ensure the needs of Australians requiring a transplant are addressed.