



Multicultural Health Advisory Group

Meeting: 9 June 2026

The Multicultural Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) convened for their fourth meeting on Tuesday, 9 June 2026.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION`

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department) welcomed members to the second Advisory Group meeting of 2026.

The department outlined the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program, which aims to improve cancer outcomes by expanding access to high-quality, culturally safe care across all locations and cancer types. The program is improving engagement with multicultural communities through translated and easy-read resources, interpreter support, and enabling support people to be involved in conversations. Members identified opportunities to strengthen the program further, including stronger links with palliative care and mental health services, qualified interpreters and bicultural navigators, accessible in-language information, and two-way referral pathways.

The department discussed the 2026–27 Federal Budget investment in digital health, including funding to improve My Health Record usability and data sharing. Members reiterated the need for minimum demographic data fields to better capture information on multicultural communities. Professor Mark Taylor, chair of the departments Learning Health Systems Strategic Advisory Committee, outlined work to support the potential future use of My Health Record data for research and public health, including an interim advisory committee and data governance board.

The Social Policy Group also updated members on its consultation paper on artificial intelligence in healthcare, including impacts on culturally and linguistically diverse, migrant and refugee communities, and its review of cultural competence in clinician education, training and standards. Members noted the need for clear parameters around the use of AI in translation and interpreting services.

NEXT STEPS

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting in September 2026.

See [Multicultural Health Advisory Group](#) and [terms of reference](#) for more information.