



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

National Medical Workforce Strategy

2021–2031



Investing in our medical workforce to meet Australia's health needs.

Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration Communique – 14 August 2026

The Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC) met on 14 August 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Natalie Bekis and independent Co-Chair Professor Ruth Kearon. Members welcomed Dr David Walker as independent MWAC Deputy Chair.

National Medical Workforce Strategy

An update was provided on the **National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021-2031 (NMWS)** Baseline Report, which provides the first national snapshot of the medical workforce since the Strategy's release in 2022. Discussion focused on workforce distribution, retention, rural and remote training, workforce wellbeing, and opportunities to strengthen workforce data and information sharing. It highlighted existing data gaps and related work by governments through the **National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA)** to strengthen workforce data. Members also considered the broader NHRA Schedule G health workforce reform priorities and the alignment with the NMWS.

Clinical Supervision and Generalism

Progress was noted on key deliverables of the Clinical Supervision Working Group (CSWG), including a supervision framework, tools and guidance to strengthen clinical supervision across the health system. Key deliverables from the Generalism Working Group (GWG) were endorsed, including a Generalism Consensus Statement and Generalism Definition Summary Statement. These items will progress to the Health Workforce Taskforce (HWT) for further consideration.

Rural Generalism and General Practice

Members discussed the development of rural generalism, including workforce planning, training, professional support and access to care in rural and remote communities. Members noted positive progress in rural generalist training programs gaining Australian Medical Council accreditation. This is supporting clearer training pathways and strengthening the rural generalist workforce pipeline. Members also discussed general practice workforce initiatives and outcomes for 2026–27 including GP training reforms, workforce capacity, supervision, distribution and growing training demand. Members noted the growth in interest in general practice, and that sustained growth requires strong systems to ensure positive training experiences.

The next MWAC meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2026.

For further information and enquiries please contact: MWAC@health.gov.au.

