



Multicultural Health Advisory Group

Meeting: 29 September 2026

The Multicultural Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) convened for their third meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, 29 September 2026.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department) welcomed members to the third Advisory Group meeting of 2026. Throughout the meeting, members noted the importance of culturally safe navigation across health, disability and aged care systems, particularly for older people, people ageing with disability and family carers. It was recognised that people do not experience policy through portfolios - they experience it through transitions between systems.

The department provided an overview of the proposed changes to the NDIS Supports Transitional Rules, noting these changes are a key enabler of the New Framework for Planning. Following the public consultation which opened in August 2026, members were invited to provide feedback on the new NDIS rules by 14 October 2026. Discussion focused on the best engagement mechanisms for consultation, such as translators, interpreters and bicultural educators.

The SBS presented a concept for a national, in-language multicultural health and wellbeing content initiative and sought members' feedback to test, refine and strengthen the concept. Drawing on their expertise and understanding of the needs and priorities of multicultural communities, members provided insights to inform the initiative's development. Members supported the initiative and agreed linkages with existing expertise and resources be used. Discussion included the need to manage sensitive topics, including through consultation with relevant peak organisations, and support for the choice of languages.

The department's Thriving Kids Taskforce provided an update on the implementation of Thriving Kids. Members discussed and provided feedback on engagement and communication approaches for multicultural communities, as well as the National Digital Child Health Record. Members discussed the importance of providing information on health system navigation, addressing misinformation and use of AI by consumers in health management.

The department then provided an overview of the BreastScreen Australia Strategic Framework, including the implementation priorities which include the development of a National Participation Strategy and Action Plan. Members provided feedback on how BreastScreen Australia can improve participation amongst multicultural populations, including priority actions, communication and engagement approaches, and the role of multicultural organisations and community leaders in supporting implementation and awareness.

NEXT STEPS

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting in early February 2027.

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