

Thriving Kids Advisory Group Communique

16 September 2026

The former Thriving Kids Advisory Group (Advisory Group) met for a one-off meeting on 16 September 2026, chaired by Professor Frank Oberklaid AM. The meeting focused on providing an update on the progress of Thriving Kids and implementation of the national model. This included the phased roll out from October this year, and preparations for full rollout by 1 January 2028.

Professor Oberklaid acknowledged the importance of Thriving Kids in providing an improved approach to early intervention for children with extra developmental needs and the central role of families, carers and kin in supporting a child's development.

Professor Oberklaid highlighted the transition of Thriving Kids from design to implementation and emphasised the important role members play as leaders and experts in their sector and communities, and the need for continued collaboration as part of national rollout.

The Commonwealth and Western Australia provided an update on joint work to implement the Thriving Kids national model. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provided an update on Commonwealth Government measures. This included national supports expected to commence in October, such as the National Digital Information Hub and national phone supports, and supports starting later this year such as the Medicare Healthy Kids Check to assess a child's health and development at age 3. Western Australia, on behalf of states and territories, provided an overview of progress of Thriving Kids across jurisdictions.

Members expressed optimism and support for the rollout of Thriving Kids. Members discussed the need for Thriving Kids to complement existing supports for children and families, with clear information and guidance on implementation and its relationship with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Members also highlighted the importance of supports working for diverse communities and partnerships with sectors and workforces delivering or connecting families to Thriving Kids.

The meeting concluded with members acknowledging that the Advisory Group is not scheduled to meet again formally at this stage and members will be kept up to date as Thriving Kids rolls out as appropriate.

For further information, please contact the Thriving Kids Secretariat at ThrivingKidsSecretariat@health.gov.au.