Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Nurse Practitioner Workforce Plan Implementation Advisory Group

Meeting Communique March 2026

The seventh meeting of the Nurse Practitioner Workforce Plan (Plan) Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) was held on Friday 20 March 2026.

Members discussed the work underway against actions in the Plan, an update on the baseline study, communication materials, and received a presentation from Adj Assoc. Professor Marina Buchanan-Grey, ACT Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, on ACT NP Reform work.

Members were provided with an overview of the Headline Indicator Monitoring baseline for the Plan. The purpose of the baseline is to support future monitoring of implementation and progress. Data were drawn from available national datasets, with limitations and gaps acknowledged.

Members were also presented with information on scholarships and findings from the South Australian and Western Australian Nurse Practitioner primary care pilots. These pilots demonstrated improved access and high consumer satisfaction, while identifying barriers including training and onboarding, scope and regulatory constraints, funding sustainability and understanding of the Nurse Practitioner role.

Members highlighted the importance of developing communication materials aimed at helping consumers better understand the role and scope of nurse practitioners and how general practitioners can work collaboratively together. Additionally, members discussed the importance of communicating the distinction between Designated Registered Nurse Prescribers (DRNPs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) to the public.

The next IAG will take place mid-late 2026.