



Australian Government

Department of Health

Communique 11 December 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

On 11 December 2020, the fourteenth meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference. This was the final meeting scheduled for the Taskforce in 2020.

Findings from the Labour Market Analysis and Educational Institutions Review

ACIL Allen provided an overview of key findings of the Labour Market Analysis and Educational Institutions Review conducted to inform the work of the Taskforce. Members were supportive of the findings of the reports and highlighted a few issues, including:

- Variability across states and territories for supervision and access to training.
- Quality and availability of placements, particularly due to competition and workforce setting.

ACIL Allen are incorporating feedback from the Department on the reports, which will be available to members early in 2021.

Prioritisation of the Working Group Recommendations

ACIL Allen presented on the prioritised working group recommendations, as determined from a survey circulated for Taskforce member feedback. This survey included three foundational recommendations and the list of prioritised recommendations assessed against the five criteria.

Members were supportive of the foundational recommendations addressing the issues of workforce competencies required by the broadly defined mental health workforce, regulatory structures for these workforces and the need for mental health workforce data. In addition, members recommended including supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workforce as a foundation recommendation. Members highlighted the need for these recommendations to be clear, explicit and inclusive.

ACIL Allen also outlined other recommendations that were rated by Taskforce members as a priority for action with discussion focussing on recommendations in relation to Lived Experience (Peer) workforce and the rural and remote mental health workforce.

Outcomes from the discussions were incorporated into an updated list of recommendations and submitted to Government.

Next Steps for the Taskforce

The next stage of the Taskforce's work will include consultation with state and territory governments on the initial recommendations and the implementation of a written submission process to inform the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy. This work will be conducted in early 2021.

Previous Taskforce meeting communiques are published [here](#).