



Australian Government

Department of Health

Communique 19 August 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

On 19 August 2020, the sixth meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference.

The Co-Chairs introduced ACIL Allen to the Taskforce, who are undertaking support, evaluation and consultation activities in relation to the mental health workforce to assist in the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy.

Presentations from Taskforce Members on the Mental Health Workforces and Professions

Members provided presentations to highlight the barriers to, and opportunities for, building the workforce to meet the current and future mental health needs of Australians. The presentations included:

- Rural and remote case studies – Dr Gabrielle O’Kane
- Psychiatrists – Associate Professor John Allan
- Lived experience (peer) workers – Ms Margaret Doherty & Ms Heather Nowak
- General practitioners – Dr Michael Tam

Subsequent meetings will be held to provide further insight into the diverse mental health workforces and professions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will continue the theme of presentations on particular workforces and be held on 8 September 2020. The Taskforce will hear presentations from members on roles and perspectives of Carers, Counsellors, Psychotherapists and Mental Health Nurses.

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