



Australian Government
Department of Health

Communique 23 October 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

On 23 October 2020, the eleventh meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference.

Taskforce Working Group Reports and Recommendations

Working Group Chairs provided members an overview of the findings, key themes and recommendations from the Working Group reports.

Working Group reports outlined the findings across the five key priority areas of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy (the Strategy):

- Rural and Remote
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Workforce Training and Education
- Peer and Lived Experience
- Inter-jurisdictional and Inter-governmental workforce policies and strategies

Members were supportive of the reports and highlighted a number of points following the presentations:

- value and recognition of prior learning and experience is important for career and training pathways for the mental health workforce
- capturing the whole mental health workforce in data collection is valuable for workforce planning and identifying service gaps
- the relationship between the mental health and physical health workforce is crucial for effective service delivery.

Members noted the importance of ensuring the recommendations developed for the Strategy have the appropriate lead based on roles and responsibilities.

ACIL Allen will consolidate the recommendations ensuring alignment with the Taskforce Terms of Reference, key issues and priority areas of the Strategy.

National Mental Health Consumer & Carer Forum

On 5 November 2020, the Working Group reports will be presented to the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum for consultation and feedback prior to finalisation.

Organising Framework for the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy

Members provided feedback on the revised organising framework for the Strategy and were supportive of the final framework presented at the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be held on 13 November 2020.

The meeting will include a discussion on the consolidated recommendations and a presentation and discussion on the findings of the national mental health workforce supply and demand data analysis undertaken by the University of Queensland.

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