



Australian Government
Department of Health

Communique 25 September 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

On 25 September 2020, the ninth meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference.

ACIL Allen and their role in the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy (the Strategy)

Members were supportive of ACIL Allen's approach as outlined in their Project Plan. This includes supporting the Taskforce Working Groups, facilitating consultations, developing written reports and writing the final Strategy and recommendations. Members provided feedback on the list of identified stakeholders for consultation.

Funding mechanisms on the distribution and sustainability of the mental health workforce

Jo Da Rocha, Assistant Secretary of the Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Policy Branch within the Department of Health, provided an overview of current funding arrangements within the mental health system.

This discussion was focused on the outcomes to be achieved for the mental health workforce using funding and other workforce support levers.

Members discussed the following desired outcomes:

- Funding allocations to ensure priority for the development of the workforce
- Ensuring organisations and service providers are well equipped for the workforce
- Creating enhanced career certainty and training within organisations
- Flexibility of funding through immediate need (e.g., domestic violence and crises)
- Service provider continuation
- Simplified career entry levels and pathways

Members also noted the need for an organising framework of the mental health workforce, as a method to understand mental health and the components required.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be held on Friday 9 October 2020 and will include an update and discussion on the findings of the Taskforce Working Groups reports and proposed organising framework for the national mental health workforce.

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