



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Communique 11 September 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

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On 8 and 11 September 2020, the seventh and eighth meetings of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) were held by video conference.

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:

- Psychologists – Ms Ros Knight
- Counsellors and Psychotherapists – Dr Di Stow
- Carers – Mr Peter Heggie
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders – Mr Thomas Brideson
- Allied Health Professionals and the NSW Mental Health Horizons Scanning – Ms Celia Halliburton, Mr Andrew Davison and Ms Nicola Clemens from NSW Health
- Community Mental Health Workers – Mr Bill Gye

The presentations led to productive discussions among members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be held on Friday 25 September and include a discussion with ACIL Allen on their role in the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy, a presentation from the Department of Health on the development of the National Medical Workforce Strategy and a discussion on how the funding of mental health services impacts on the distribution and sustainability of the mental health workforce.

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