



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

Communique 9 October 2020

**National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce**

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On 9 October 2020, the tenth meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference.

**National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Proposed Organising Framework**

ACIL Allen provided a presentation on a proposed framework for considering the mental health workforce from a person centred, social and emotional wellbeing basis. The framework draws on the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023*.

The Taskforce broadly supported the social and emotional wellbeing approach.

Members discussed the framework, which provides a broad definition of the mental health workforce to include the people who interact with and provide support and clinical care to people experiencing mental illness.

Members discussed how the mental health workforce is drawn from a wide range of professions and occupations performing an even broader array of roles across different service settings. Discussion also included recognition of the informal, unpaid workforce of family friends and important others who support people experiencing mental illness.

Members provided suggestions on diagrammatically presenting the social and emotional wellbeing framework for the mental health workforce to show:

- the active role of consumers and carers in the recovery journey and their interaction with the workforce;
- an encompassing rather than stepped through approach to accessing care; and
- a multidisciplinary workforce working in partnership with other workforces with the consumer and carers at the centre.

It was agreed that ACIL Allen would refine the presentation of the framework and seek members' input out-of-session.

Members also discussed issues of cultural appropriation in using a social and emotional wellbeing framework. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representative members noted that a social and emotional wellbeing framework works well for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and can be a way forward for all communities.

## Working Groups

Members were provided with an update on progress from each of the working groups. Five working groups have been developed under the Taskforce to examine and report on the following priority areas:

- 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

Work undertaken by the working groups will help to inform the scope and development of the Strategy. Each working group will develop a written report, using a template provided by the Taskforce Secretariat, outlining the key mental health workforce issues, challenges and opportunities within a priority area that should be considered within the Strategy.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be held on 23 October.

At the meeting Working Group Chairs will report back on Working Group reports, highlighting key themes and discussions. Chairs will also table their reports.

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