



Allied Health Industry Reference Group Meeting: 1 March 2022 Summary of Outcomes

The Allied Health Industry Reference Group (AHIRG) held its first meeting on 1 March 2022. The topics covered in the meeting included:

- An introduction of the group's core membership and Terms of Reference (ToR).
 - Members noted that the AHIRG was established to bring the allied health sector together to identify common problems and share solutions.
- A presentation led by the Department on allied health-led research as well as current allied health funding and grant opportunities.
 - The presentation highlighted the Medical Research Future Fund's objectives and initiatives.
 - Members highlighted the need for more training in translational research and more dedicated research opportunities. The importance of identifying health and health service gaps where allied health research would be of high value was noted.
- A presentation led by the Conjoint Allied Health Professors on the value of allied health research in Australia.
 - Members discussed the lack of opportunities and support for clinical researchers, as well as the poor visibility of allied health in general.
 - Many solutions were identified and discussed that could help tackle these problems, such as dedicated allied health grants and establishing research-sharing networks.
- Another presentation led by the Department demonstrating their updated dashboard containing data about the Allied Health Workforce.
 - Members noted the dashboard will be made public in the coming months.
- Members expressed an interest in having the next meeting be focused on allied health workforce planning.

Next Steps:

The Department will:

- Make minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and finalise out of session.
- Gather more information for the Allied Health Workforce Dashboard concerning self-regulated allied health professions and geographic regions.
- Draft a table of solutions to research challenges to be discussed at the next meeting.