

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities COVID-19 Health Advisory Group

Update: 20 July 2021

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities COVID-19 Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its seventh meeting on 20 July 2021. Members include leaders from culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse communities and their representative organisations, health experts and medical and public health practitioners. The Advisory Group meets monthly and publishes a communique following each meeting. It has three Working Groups: the Communication Working Group, the Vaccination Strategy Working Group and the Data Working Group.

The Advisory Group plays a main role in supporting the Australian Government to provide an evidence-based response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It builds on the department's long engagement with culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse stakeholders. The Advisory Group will give advice on the experience of multicultural people and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will recommend options to lessen the health impacts of COVID-19 on people and communities from multicultural backgrounds.

Updates from this meeting

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce (the Taskforce) gave an update on the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Lieutenant General John Frewen, DSC, AM, Coordinator General of the National COVID Vaccine Taskforce, gave an overview of Operation COVID Shield. He spoke about his role in accelerating the vaccine roll-out. Members welcomed Lieutenant General Frewen's appointment and invited him to attend future meetings.

Members discussed partnership opportunities to support the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out for CALD communities, including developing an advertising campaign tailored to CALD communities. Members suggested different vaccination delivery methods to increase uptake in CALD communities.

The [COVID-19 Glossary of Medical Terminology for Immunisation and Vaccine](#) was launched by NSW Health with Dr Holly Seale of the University of New South Wales.

Members discussed the targeted support for multicultural communities in Sydney during the COVID-19 outbreak, including tailoring and delivery of communications.

On 13 July 2021, the government announced the [COVID-19 Mental Health Boost for NSW](#). The government has given \$12.25 million to support the mental health and wellbeing of people in NSW during the outbreak. Members emphasised the importance of bicultural workers and interpreters within the provision of allied health services.

The Taskforce gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for people with a disability and for residents and workers in residential aged care facilities. The Taskforce is working with the jurisdictions, Primary Health Networks, and the aged care sector to support

vaccination for disability care workers. Members discussed accessing vaccines for all aged care workers, including those indirectly employed by residential aged care facilities.

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) presented their community consultation activities. In partnership with the Department of Health, MYAN facilitated two roundtables through its youth reference group for community consultation

The Taskforce gave an update on the National Vaccine Communication Campaign. Recent multicultural stakeholder kits emphasised the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. In-language videos addressing vaccine hesitancy are in development. The Taskforce is supporting messaging in NSW by developing scripts for community radio broadcasters to live-read. Translated posters and other materials were dispatched to supermarkets and essential businesses to display.

The draft discussion paper, '*Using Data to Better Support Culturally, Ethnically and Linguistically Diverse Communities in the Response to COVID-19*' was discussed. The Taskforce will continue investigating the collection and use of data to better support culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse communities in the response to COVID-19. The Taskforce outlined early work on the data linkage project and aims to share data at the next Advisory Group meeting. Members discussed collecting data relating to testing and communicating with CALD communities during the vaccination rollout.

The Advisory Group will meet again in August 2021.

See [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities COVID-19 Health Advisory Group](#) and [terms of reference](#) for more information.