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## **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities COVID-19 Health Advisory Group**

**Update: 8 December 2020**

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities COVID-19 Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its first meeting today. The Advisory Group is chaired by the Department of Health (the department). It includes leaders from culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse communities and their representative organisations, health experts and medical and public health practitioners. The Advisory Group will meet monthly and will publish a communique following each meeting.

The Advisory Group will play a main role in supporting the Australian Government in 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 mitigate the health impacts of COVID-19 on people and communities from multicultural backgrounds.

### **Updates from this meeting**

At this meeting, the Advisory Group welcomed the World Wellness Group to present on its Multicultural Connect Line. Information on the Multicultural Connect Line is available at <https://worldwellnessgroup.org.au/>

The department gave an update on the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan and the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy. The department sought advice on how to continue to work with multicultural communities across Australia. Members commended the pro-active approach of the Commonwealth in ensuring everyone in Australia is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Advisory Group members expressed a strong interest in the data collected by the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System and GP-led Respiratory Clinics. The department explained these data. Members talked about what this shows about the experiences of people from multicultural communities and their interaction with the health system.

Members agreed to a broad outline of the Advisory Group's work plan, focussing on communication, data and COVID-19 vaccine delivery. The department will present a final work plan at the next meeting. The Advisory Group agreed to create two small working groups to focus on the COVID-19 vaccine strategy and communications.

Members also agreed that state and territory government representatives may participate as observers at meetings

The Advisory Group will meet again in January 2021.

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