

## Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections

### Terms of Reference – 2021 to 2023

#### 1. Purpose

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVSTI) is an advisory body to Government on specific issues relating to blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

On the Minister for Health's request, MACBBVSTI will provide advice to Government on:

- emerging trends and issues relating to Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections that need immediate attention; and
- approaches to improving engagement with priority populations identified in the five *National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategies 2018-2022*.

The Minister for Health nominates the topic for each MACBBVSTI meeting.

#### 2. Membership and membership terms

The Minister for Health approves members to be invited to attend each MACBBVSTI meeting.

Only members who can provide relevant knowledge, skills and/or expertise relating to a specific meeting topic will be invited to provide advice and/or attend meetings.

The Australian Government Department of Health, ex officio First Assistant Secretary, Population Health Division, is the Chair of MACBBVSTI.

Membership of MACBBVSTI comprises expert stakeholders drawn from government and the non-government sector. Individuals' knowledge, skills and/or expertise may include:

- epidemiology of blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections and/or;
- research on blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections and/or;
- clinical care delivery for blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections and/or;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples' sexual health issues and/or;
- sexual health promotion and education and/or;
- representing people living with a blood borne virus or sexually transmissible infection.

Other experts with appropriate knowledge and skills may be approached to provide advice on specific topics, if required.

Members may nominate a proxy to attend meetings on their behalf, for the Chair's consideration and approval.

### **3. Term of the Committee**

MACBBVSTI's term is time-limited to three years: from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023. This term aligns with the duration of the *National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategies 2018-2022*, and provides for early development and implementation of future Strategies.

### **4. Convening, meeting schedule and provision of advice**

During its term, MACBBVSTI will convene in response to specific requests for advice from the Minister for Health on policy, social issues, emerging risks, and priority actions relating to HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, other blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

The MACBBVSTI Secretariat will collate members' advice for the Minister for Health, with MACBBVSTI members' endorsement.

MACBBVSTI will provide most advice for the Minister for Health's consideration via email exchange (through the Secretariat), teleconference or videoconference.

MACBBVSTI may hold face-to-face meetings if required. A quorum of eight members plus the Chair (or Chair's proxy) will be required to hold a meeting.

### **5. Remuneration and travel expenses**

Committee members will be remunerated in line with the Australian Government [Remuneration Tribunal determinations](#).

The Secretariat of MACBBVSTI will arrange travel and accommodation, if required.

### **6. Conflict of Interest**

Members of the Committee will be required to sign a Conflict of Interest form upon accepting membership, in line with Department of Health guidelines. It will be the responsibility of the member to inform the Secretariat of any changes to status if it should arise.

### **7. Secretariat**

The Australian Government Department of Health, Population Health Division, will provide Secretariat support for MACBBVSTI.