

ALLIED HEALTH INDUSTRY REFERENCE GROUP

MEETING THREE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 - SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

The Allied Health Industry Reference Group (AHIRG) held its third meeting on 1 September 2022. This meeting was opened to allied health professional bodies.

The topics covered in the meeting included:

- A presentation from the PHN Steering Team regarding their draft National PHN Allied Health in Primary Care Engagement Framework. The presentation highlighted:
 - PHN's relationship with allied health professionals is growing and could be further enhanced.
 - PHNs are commissioning allied health services and seeking to improve engagement with and understanding of AH community needs and service capacity.
 - PHN Steering Team requested additional comments through the Chief Allied Health Officer mailbox by 14 September 2022 (the revised draft may subsequently be circulated to AHIRG members for endorsement).
- The AHIRG Chair presented the outcomes of the previous AHIRG meetings and welcomed further comments from the broader group of allied health peak bodies. In particular, the group was asked to add further research networks to the list that was collated following the March 2022 AHIRG meeting.
- The National Office of Child Safety (NOCS) presented a paper on Creating a Child Safe Culture.
 - The NOCS was established following the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse.
 - The focus of the discussion was on what allied health practitioners may require to create and maintain a child safe environment.
 - Members agreed to provide feedback to the NOCS on their consultation questions and resources.
- Other business addressed the following:
 - Applications for allied health scholarships are open, with more information available at <https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships>, or by contacting scholarships@acn.edu.au.
 - The paper resulting from an allied health workforce data gap analysis is publicly available on the department's website at [Allied health workforce data gap analysis – issues paper | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#).
 - A subscription service to be notified of Australian Government allied health matters is now available on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website at [Subscribe to the allied health sector updates | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
 - Members noted that Mr Antony Nicholas is representing allied health on the Minister's Strengthening Medicare Taskforce and were encouraged to raise relevant issues with Mr Nicholas.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Members will review the National PHN Allied Health in Primary Care Engagement Framework and provide feedback to the AHIRG Chair (caho@health.gov.au) by 14 September 2022. The AHIRG Secretariat will consolidate feedback and provide to the PHN Steering Team.
2. Members will review the Creating a Child Safe Culture resources and provide feedback to the National Office of Child Safety (NationalOfficeforChildSafety@ag.gov.au) on the suitability of the questions for the allied health sector.
3. Members will raise any issues for consideration as part of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce with Mr Antony Nicholas (ceo@osteopathy.org.au).
4. Members will identify and report back on additional research networks that could help bring together allied health researchers from across the country. Responses should be sent to caho@health.gov.au. The AHIRG Secretariat will consolidate information provided by AHIRG members and circulate back to the group.
5. Please subscribe to the Department of Health and Aged Care's allied health communication service, a link will be made available when the service goes live.