

COMMUNIQUE
10th Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) Meeting
8 March 2019

The Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) held its tenth meeting in Canberra on 12 December 2018 in relation to the *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Donna Murray (Deputy Chair of the National Health Leadership Forum) and Mr Mark Roddam (First Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Health Division, Department of Health).

Members welcomed Dr Lucas de Toca as the new Department of Health representative to IPAG.

Members noted that as at 31 December 2018, 68 of the 2018 Implementation Plan deliverables were complete, with 38 being ongoing. Work continues to progress on reaching the 2023 milestones across all 106 deliverables.

In relation to the 20 Implementation Plan goals, members also noted that 10 out of the 15 goals that can be measured are on track. Members noted that 4 of the 5 goals not on track relate to annual health checks, and discussed the need to consider strategies for promoting health checks and further interrogation of the data at future IPAG meetings.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also advised that the next update on reporting progress against the goals will occur in April 2019. The web report is available on the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website](#).

Members received a range of presentations on the day to further inform consideration and monitoring of progress across Aboriginal community-controlled and mainstream health system components associated with the Implementation Plan. These included:

- Professor Paul Worley, Rural Health Commissioner, who updated members on his work program and committed to presenting to IPAG annually;
- The National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) Taskforce, in respect to key policy priority areas associated with the next NHRA;
- Allen and Clarke on progress associated with the Indigenous Australians Health Programme primary healthcare evaluation;
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, who walked through a current project on “access relative to need” for First Australians;
- The MBS Review Taskforce, who discussed both Indigenous-specific MBS items and the broader review work program; and
- The Closing the Gap Taskforce on current developments towards the new Ministerial Council on Closing the Gap.

Members discussed the draft Implementation Plan Report Card, which will outline the progress and challenges in progressing the Implementation Plan goals and deliverables to date. IPAG will endorse the final version of the Report Card scheduled for release in April 2019.

Members also agreed to finalise the membership and terms of reference to the IPAG working group in March to help progress the development of the next iteration of the Implementation Plan. This also included noting the key consultation and drafting steps in the process.

For further information, please contact the IPAG.Secretariat@health.gov.au

Background

The IPAG first met in September 2016, and has been established to review progress, assess action and identify emerging policy and strategic issues for the Implementation Plan, and provide advice to the Departments of Health and Prime Minister and Cabinet. IPAG will play a key role in engaging across the sector for the development of the next iteration of the Implementation Plan.

Membership of IPAG includes representatives from:

- the Department of Health
- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- the National Health Leadership Forum
- the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- the Torres Strait Regional Authority
- AHMAC's Health Services Principal Committee's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Standing Committee, and
- Indigenous health experts with expertise in early childhood health, comprehensive primary health care, health research and acute care.

The IPAG is co-chaired by Ms Pat Turner, Chair - National Health Leadership Forum and CEO National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Mr Mark Roddam, First Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Health Division, Department of Health.

For further details, please refer to the [Department's website](#).

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan, launched in October 2015, outlines the actions to be taken by the Australian Government, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector, and other key stakeholders to give effect to the vision, principles, priorities and strategies of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (2013-2023)*.