

COMMUNIQUE
11th Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) Meeting
27 June 2019

The Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) held its eleventh meeting in Canberra on 27 June 2019 in relation to the *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023* (the Implementation Plan).

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Donna Murray, Deputy Chair of the National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF), and Mr Mark Roddam, First Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health. Ms Murray advised that she had been delegated the role of ongoing IPAG Co-Chair from Ms Pat Turner (Chair of the NHLF).

Members noted the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health, has assumed responsibility for Indigenous health, following the May 2019 Federal Election.

Members noted progress made against the deliverables and goals that are outlined in the Implementation Plan. As at 31 May 2019:

- 70 of the Implementation Plan deliverables had met their 2018 milestone, with ongoing work being done on the remaining 36;
- work was progressing well on the Implementation Plan deliverables with a 2023 milestone, with a small number already complete; and
- it was noted that the next status update on the Implementation Plan goals will be available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website on 2 July 2019.

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:

- Mr Romlie Mokak, Productivity Commissioner, who updated members on his work program to develop a whole-of-government evaluation strategy for policies and programs affecting Indigenous Australians;
- An update from Prof Kerry Arabena focussing on the cultural expertise, advice and analysis of the cultural determinants of health with a view to building practical and applicable solutions into the next iteration of the Implementation Plan.
- Mr Tom Brideson from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health provided an update;
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, presented on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent and youth health and wellbeing;
- A number of updates from the Department of Health, including: the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Medical Workforce Plan; the National Health Reform Agreement and the Indigenous Pharmacy Programs reform process; and
- The Closing the Gap Refresh Taskforce on current developments towards revised Closing the Gap targets.

Members of the Implementation Plan Working Group were invited to meet with IPAG to discuss the approach to the development of the next iteration of the Implementation Plan. This included consideration of a number of options for how the next iteration could be structured.

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 Donna Murray, Deputy Chair - National Health Leadership Forum and CEO Indigenous Allied Health Australia, 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)*.