

COMMUNIQUE
8th Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) Meeting
25 September 2018

The Implementation Plan Advisory Group (IPAG) held its eighth meeting in Canberra on 25 September 2018 in relation to the *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023* (the Implementation Plan).

Members noted that the COAG Health Council (CHC) will have a greater focus on Indigenous health with the announcement of Minister Wyatt's new CHC role (in his capacity as Minister for Indigenous Health). Members noted Minister Wyatt's role in developing a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Medical Workforce Plan under the auspices of CHC which will include engagement with key stakeholders, including the National Health Leadership Forum.

Members also received an update on the Closing the Gap Refresh agenda from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, noting that work is currently underway to finalise proposed targets for COAG consideration at its next meeting on 12 December 2018, in consultation with stakeholders. Members agreed the importance of alignment between the Closing the Gap Refresh agenda and the next iteration of the Implementation Plan.

Members noted that half of the 106 Implementation Plan deliverables had been achieved so far for 2018, with further deliverables on target for completion. Members were consulted on the structure and content of an Implementation Plan Report Card outlining the progress and challenges in progressing the Implementation Plan goals and deliverables to date.

Members received presentations from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on a cultural safety reporting tool and from Dr Jack Beetson on the *Literacy for Life* project.

Members discussed the development of a reporting tool on the location and use of general practices in Australia by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, noting that future releases of the reporting tool will include information on other health professional services.

Members shared their ideas on how a core service-s framework could be developed for primary health care funded activities under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme.

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 Principle 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 Janine Mohamed, Chair, National Health Leadership Forum, and

Mr Mark Roddam, First Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Health Division, Department of Health.

IPAG's previous meetings were held on 16 September 2016, 2 December 2016, 28 February 2017,

9 June 2017, 19 September 2017, 28-29 November 2017 and 26 June 2018. For further details, please refer to the Department's website:

[weblink to Implementation Plan Advisory Group information](#)

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).

The Implementation Plan is being progressed in two stages. The second stage (or next iteration) of the Implementation Plan (2018-2023) will include:

- A greater focus on the social determinants of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Reference to the impact of culture on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Increased engagement and involvement with other Australian Government agencies, state, territory and local governments, the Aboriginal community controlled health sector, the non-government sector and the corporate/private sector.
- New challenges and priorities.
- Emerging evidence and opportunities.
- Strategic response on mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug use.