



## Australian Government

### Department of Health

Communique 24 July 2020

## National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce

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On 24 July, the fifth meeting of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce (the Taskforce) was held by video conference.

### Correspondence to the Taskforce

Members noted the roles of the Taskforce as per the Taskforce Terms of Reference. The Taskforce is not in a position to endorse individual proposals nor the development of proposals.

Through examination and consultation of the mental health workforce and system, the Taskforce will draw upon findings to develop recommendations to the Australian Government and inform the development of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy (the Strategy).

The Taskforce Terms of Reference can be found on the Strategy web page [here](#).

### Presentation on the Draft Literature Review of Existing National and Jurisdictional Mental Health Workforce Strategies and Recent Findings of Mental Health Reviews and Inquiries

Members were supportive of the draft literature review, developed by the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland, and its initial findings on the six project questions:

1. What are the **key workforce challenges** in the mental health workforce in Australia?
2. What are the **commonalities** graded, from most to least prevalent, across the various national and jurisdictional mental health workforce strategies?
3. What principles, actions and mechanisms have been identified to **support an effective mental health workforce** across Australia?
4. What issues have been identified that impact the **quality, supply, distribution and structure** of the mental health workforce.
5. What practical approaches have been recommended to **attract, train and retain** the workforce required to meet the demands of the mental health system in the future.
6. What does the review reveal about the state of the mental health workforce in the following **priority areas**: Rural and Remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Peer Work Force and Lived Experience; Education and Training; and Interjurisdictional and Intergovernmental.

Members discussed the importance of informal care provided by carers, family, friends and others, and noted this aspect of mental health care is not represented in existing mental health strategies.

A copy of the Literature Review is available [here](#).

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be held during the week of 17 August 2020 and will include presentations from Taskforce members on roles and challenges of General Practitioners, Psychiatrists and the Lived Experience mental health workforce in providing mental health services.

Previous Taskforce meeting communiques and the presentation on the draft literature review findings are published [here](#).