

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ADVISORY GROUP COMMUNIQUE No. 1

Background

As part of the Government's commitment to deliver a healthier Medicare, the Minister for Health, Sussan Ley, announced a number of key reform processes to ensure Australians continue to receive high quality health care supported by a sustainable and effective universal Medicare system. The Primary Health Care Advisory Group is a key component of this work.

The intent of the Primary Health Care Advisory Group is to guide a necessary shift from a potentially fragmented and siloed system to a more integrated system that considers the whole of a person's health care needs over time, focusing specifically on people living with chronic and complex conditions.

The Advisory Group has been tasked to provide advice to Government in late 2015.

Progress to date

Members have explored the issues and challenges for patients and the health sector in the management of chronic and complex conditions and considered the evidence in both the Australian and international contexts.

Members are currently working to finalise the group's public discussion paper that will form the basis for a comprehensive national consultation process. An online mechanism for capturing feedback on the themes raised in the discussion paper is also being finalised.

Meetings

The Advisory Group will meet up to six times in 2015. To date, the group has met twice; in June and July respectively.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for September 2015.

National Consultation process

A comprehensive national consultation process will be conducted by the Advisory Group throughout August.

The group encourages both health care providers and people who would benefit from care that is coordinated between multiple providers, including carers, to engage in this process and support the development of potential options for system improvements.

The calendar of public information briefings, sector briefings and stakeholder meetings is currently being finalised. Capital cities and some regional centres will be visited by members throughout August.

Members of the group will also form a panel for a live web-cast on 21 August. This public event will enable those who were unable to attend public information briefings to engage in the discussion.

Further information

The consultation process will be advertised in national and metropolitan newspapers, through social media and on the [Advisory Groups webpage](http://www.health.gov.au/healthiermedicare) at www.health.gov.au/healthiermedicare