

## Draft National Allied Health Workforce Strategy

Thank you for taking the time to share your views on the Draft National Allied Health Workforce Strategy – we appreciate your insights. Consultation opens on Monday 20 January 2025 and will close on 3 March 2025.

### Overview

The Department of Health and Aged Care, on behalf of the Australian Government, is working with state and territory governments to develop a National Allied Health Workforce Strategy (Strategy), as recommended in the *Independent review of overseas health practitioner regulatory settings Final Report*.

The Draft Strategy outlines what steps are recommended to ensure there are enough highly trained allied health professionals distributed across the country. It highlights the importance of the Australian Government, state and territory governments, universities, allied health peak bodies and professional associations, and relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in working together to improve planning for the allied health workforce.

### The process so far

Development of the Draft Strategy has been led by a Strategy Steering Group. The group comprises Chief Allied Health Officers from each state and territory, as well as senior executive from several Australian government agencies. An Advisory Group, comprised of members from the [Allied Health Industry Reference Group](#), also provides advice and supports the Steering Group in this role. Both groups have met monthly to provide input and feedback as development of the draft Strategy has progressed.

The Strategy Steering Group report to the Health Workforce Taskforce (Taskforce), which has overseen the Strategy's development. They are a subcommittee under the Health Chief Executives Forum and the Health Ministers Meeting, considering matters relating to the Australian health workforce, with Taskforce members drawn from all jurisdictions. Once they endorse the final Strategy, it will be progressed to Health Chief Executives and Health Ministers for endorsement.

The Taskforce has also provided guidance around the scope of the document. This included taking a sectoral approach rather than focusing on issues specific to different allied health professions. While acknowledging other workforces that work with and alongside of allied health professionals, such as allied health assistants, Taskforce agreed that this inaugural National Allied Health Workforce Strategy would focus on allied health professionals.

The drafting process began with undertaking an Allied Health Environmental Scan to better understand the status of the Australian allied health workforce and to consider relevant cross-sectoral policies and reforms. Extensive stakeholder consultation has also informed the development of the Draft Strategy. There were over 800 submissions to a public consultation on the proposed outline of the draft Strategy, open between 28 May

## Survey Background – Consultation Hub - Draft National Allied Health Workforce Strategy

and 9 July 2024. A series of targeted online forums were also held throughout August and September 2024, providing an opportunity to discuss issues and test possible solutions in relation to a range of allied health workforce topics. Over 150 stakeholders from a range of allied health backgrounds attended these forums; these included consumers, business owners and managers, educators, researchers, students, professional associations and more.

Table 1: Approach so far: Consultation on the development of the Strategy

<b>Consultation approach and purpose</b>	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Consultation Hub – Round 1 <i>To seek feedback on the purpose and scope of the Strategy</i>	✓ Completed					Strategy Drafting				
Stakeholder forums <i>Targeted consultations with allied health leaders</i>			✓ Completed							
Consultation Hub – Round 2 <i>To seek feedback on a draft version of the National Allied Health Workforce Strategy</i>										From 20 January – 3 March

### Consultation on the Draft Strategy

This Draft Strategy has been released for the purpose of seeking feedback from people and organisations with an interest in the allied health workforce. The prospective priorities and actions that have been presented reflect the issues, ideas and feedback raised during the consultations and research described above.

It has been developed as a high-level document, with the intention for it to be supported by an implementation plan. The proposed implementation plan will consider the specific actions, timeframes, measurements of success and stakeholders required to work towards addressing these priorities.

### Why your views matter

We appreciate your views on this Consultation Draft of the National Allied Health Workforce Strategy. The experience and knowledge of all stakeholders and interested members of the community are valued and will contribute to the final Strategy.

It is important to note that the Strategy will be properly formatted and typeset prior to finalisation. As such, additions such as a glossary of terms, tables, figures and other graphics have not yet been included. Text will undergo further proofreading and stylistic changes, so feedback is not required on these elements.

Instead, we ask respondents to focus on the content of the Draft Strategy. To assist this, please read the entire Draft Strategy before responding to the questions.