**National Allied Health Workforce Strategy**

Welcome to the Consultation Hub for the National Allied Health Workforce Strategy. Thank you for taking the time to share your views – we appreciate your insights.

Consultation opens Tuesday 28 May and will close Tuesday 9 July.

**Overview**

Australians need better access to allied health care to prevent and manage chronic conditions, and support people with disability, older people, people with mental health issues and children and families.

The Australian Government is working with state and territory governments to develop a National Allied Health Workforce Strategy, as recommended in the *Independent review of Australia’s regulatory settings relating to overseas health practitioners* [Final Report](https://www.regulatoryreform.gov.au/priorities/health-practitioner-regulatory-settings-review).

A steering group has been formed to guide development of the Strategy. The group comprises Chief Allied Health Officers from each state and territory, as well as senior executive from a number of Australian government agencies including the Department of Health and Aged Care, Department of Education, National Disability Insurance Agency and Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

As a first step the steering group has developed a draft outline for the Strategy. The Strategy, once developed, will outline what steps are needed to ensure there are enough highly trained allied health professionals distributed across the country. It will describe how the Australian Government, state and territory governments, universities and professional associations can work together to improve planning for the allied health workforce.

**Why your views matter**

We appreciate your participation in this consultation on the draft outline 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.

A further round of consultation will occur later in 2024, to seek feedback on the draft Strategy once it has been developed*.*

**Survey Questions**

**Respondent information**

Please answer a few short questions about yourself.

Are you answering these questions on behalf of an organisation? [MANDATORY]

* + Yes, I am answering on behalf of an organisation/institution.
  + No, I am answering as an individual.

IF ORGANISATION: In which State(s) and/or Territory(ies) do you operate: [MANDATORY]

* + VIC
  + SA
  + NSW
  + QLD
  + WA
  + TAS
  + ACT
  + NT
  + NATIONAL

IF ORGANISATION: Please select the category that best describes your organisation: [MANDATORY]

* + Peak/professional body – allied health
  + Peak/professional body - other
  + Regulatory body
  + Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation
  + State/Territory government department/agency
  + Other government entity
  + Health service delivery organisation
  + Disability service delivery organisation
  + Other service delivery organisation
  + Local council
  + Primary Health Network
  + University/education/research institute
  + Other

IF INDIVIDUAL: In which State/Territory do you live? (MANDATORY)

* New South Wales
* Australian Capital Territory
* Victoria
* Queensland
* Tasmania
* Western Australia
* Northern Territory
* South Australia

IF INDIVIDUAL: Please select the region that best describes where you live:(MANDATORY)

* Metropolitan
* Regional
* Rural and remote

IF INDIVIDUAL: Please select the category that best describes you: [MANDATORY]

* + Health care consumer
  + Allied health professional
  + Allied health assistant
  + Medical practitioner
  + Nurse, nurse practitioner or midwife
  + Allied health employer
  + Allied health educator
  + Allied health academic
  + Allied health student
  + Other [please specify]

*[ALL SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL]*

**ASK ALL** What is your area of practice or interest?

OPEN ENDED

**INTRODUCTION**

The Strategy outline includes an introduction that will summarise who the Strategy is for (page 1). This includes allied health professionals, the Australian Government, state and territory governments, health services, universities, regulators, consumers and professional organisations.

How useful do you think the Strategy will be for these groups and organisations? Please explain your selection (no word limit).

Not useful/Slightly useful/Moderately useful/Highly useful/Extremely useful/Not sure

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Please outline any other groups for whom the Strategy would be useful (no word limit).

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The Strategy outline includes the goals of the Strategy (page 2). Please outline your level of agreement with the following statements:

1. *The Strategy’s goals are appropriate*. Please explain your selection (no word limit).

Strongly Disagree/ Disagree/ Neither Agree nor Disagree/ Agree/ Strongly Agree/ Not sure

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1. *The Strategy’s goals are achievable*. Please explain your selection (no word limit).

Strongly Disagree/ Disagree/ Neither Agree nor Disagree/ Agree/ Strongly Agree/ Not sure

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**CURRENT AND FUTURE STATE OF ALLIED HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA**

The Strategy outline includes a discussion on the role of allied health now and in the future (page 2). Please outline your level of agreement with the following statement:

*The issues discussed accurately represent the main issues facing the allied health workforce in Australia.* Please explain your selection. (no word limit)

Strongly Disagree/ Disagree/ Neither Agree nor Disagree/ Agree/ Strongly Agree/ Not sure

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Which three issues do you think are most critical for the Strategy to address? (select 3 from the list below)

* + Existing workforce strategies and models of care
  + Existing projects that governments are doing that will impact on allied health professionals
  + What we know about the allied health workforce
  + What we are doing to ensure consumers can access safe and high-quality allied health care
  + Gaps in what we know about the allied health workforce
  + Reforms and trends that influence how allied health professionals practice in Australia
  + The health of Australians and the role of allied health professionals in supporting good health
  + How allied health professionals work
  + Other [please specify]

The Strategy outline identifies the need to grow the First Nations allied health workforce and improve access to allied health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Please outline what you think the Strategy should aim to achieve regarding the First Nations allied health workforce.

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Please outline any considerations that should be addressed in the Strategy regarding other culturally diverse and other priority populations (such as gendered and non-binary workforce and populations).

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**SNAPSHOTS OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

The Strategy outline includes a section (page 3) that will contain snapshots of what we know about allied health professionals in different sectors, including:

* Acute care
* Primary care
* Mental health
* Disability
* Aged care
* Education & child development
* Child & family safety
* Justice
* First Nations health
* Academia and
* Industry

Please highlight your level of agreement with the following statement:

*The sectors appropriately represent the primary locations in which allied health professionals work.*

Strongly Disagree/ Disagree/ Neither Agree nor Disagree/ Agree/ Strongly Agree/ Not sure

Please highlight any sectors that are not appropriate, or any that have not been considered. Please explain your response (no word limit).

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The snapshots will include what we know about allied health professionals working in that sector, such as: the types of professionals working in that sector, the funding models being used, and factors that are influencing workforce supply and demand.

Please outline any further information that should be identified about each sector (no word limit).

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**PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

The Strategy outline includes a section on priorities for action (which will be developed after further consultations).

What priorities and actions do you think should be covered in this section? Please explain your response (no word limit).

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**NEXT STEPS**

The Strategy outline includes next steps for the National Allied Health Workforce Strategy and timeframes for action. It also includes a section on how the impact of the Strategy will be assessed.

How do you think the impact of the Strategy could be assessed (no word limit)?

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**FEEDBACK**

Please provide any additional comments you have on the draft outline of the Strategy (no word limit).

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Thank you for your participation. Your input to the development of the Strategy is greatly appreciated. If you’d like to receive updates on the progress of the Strategy, please subscribe to allied health sector updates via the [department’s website](https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-the-allied-health-sector-updates).

**CONSENT TO PUBLISH**

Do you consent to your submission being published? [MANDATORY]

* + Yes
  + No

[If selected Yes to consent] Would you like your name or your organisation’s name to be published alongside your submission on the consultation hub? [MANDATORY]

* + Yes
  + No

[If selected Yes to name being published] Please provide your name or your organisation’s name as it will appear alongside your response:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [MANDATORY]

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