

Communiqué

14 February 2023 Meeting

The NHLF held its first meeting for 2023 on 14 February. This meeting was presided over by Ms Fiona Cornforth, in her first meeting as the NHLF Chair. Fiona Cornforth, the CEO of the Healing Foundation, was confirmed as Chair in October 2022 and Marilyn Morgan, Member of NAATSIP, as the Deputy Chair for a term of two-years.

Members of the NHLF formally thank Monica Barolits-McCabe and acknowledge her role within the NHLF and as the outgoing Chair and former CEO of Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.

This meeting was the first formal meeting since May 2022, heavy schedules for members and clashes with other meetings resulting in for the latter part of 2022 undertaken through the out-of-session process.

The focus of this meeting was the scheduled meeting with the Department of Health in late February regarding what the governance/partnership arrangements for the accountability frameworks for the key national health policies might look like. The discussion centered on what the partnership between governments and First Nations leaders should look like to drive progress against key health priorities for First Nations peoples.

The NHLF also met with staff from Ahpra to discuss their work to establish a new culturally safe notifications process. This work will contribute to enshrining cultural safety as a guiding principle and objective for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, which was adopted as legislative amendments to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in October 2022.

Other business items discussed was a potential collaboration with Reconciliation Australia and what this may look like; and determining position on some approaches from researchers for engagement from the NHLF on some research projects.

2023, will be another busy year for members which will be exacerbated by the debates, discussion around the upcoming constitutional referendum for a Voice to Parliament, which is central to closing the health gap.

The second quarterly meeting will be on the 17 June 2023, following the Lowitja Institute's 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in Cairns.

For further information, please contact the nhlf@iaha.com.au.