

## **Communiqué**

### **24 March 2022 Meeting**

The second quarterly NHLF meeting of 2022 was held on 24 May 2023. This meeting was presided over by Monica Barolits-McCabe in her first meeting as the NHLF Chair.

A key agenda item at this meeting was the discussion with Ahpra staff on the new Governance Structure to oversee implementation of their Cultural Safety Strategy. The Governance Structure would consist of the agency being fully responsible for implementation of the Strategy and they would link to the Governance Group who would provide the Strategic advice to Ahpra.

Members also discussed the need for national standards around cultural safety training. The consensus was that national standard is required which would guide organisations in what they should buy-in and what to expect. National standards should provide consistent messaging and expectations. Members agreed that training should be mandatory for health professionals and consequences if they do not undertake CPD around cultural safety e.g., lose their registration. The need for mandatory and consistent training is important given the implementation of the following national policy drivers: -

- the national definition for cultural safety that covers the nationally registered health professions and the upcoming amendments to the National Law that oversees the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme which will institute consequences to registered professionals who do not undertake CPD in cultural safety and consequences if harm is caused.
- the National Health Plan and Workforce Plan have addressing racism as the vision which means cultural safety training and professional development will be key activities for success of these Plans.
- The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards provide a nationally consistent statement of the level of care consumers can expect from health service organisations. The NSQHS now include explicit cultural safety action areas.

It is anticipated that the second half of 2022 will be busy with a new Commonwealth Government that is supportive of the Voice to Parliament and the Uluru Statement of the Heart and therefore Members expect support for the development of the Monitoring and Accountability Framework for the National Health Plan and Workforce Plans.

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