

Communiqué

6 December 2023 Meeting

The NHLF held its final meeting for 2023 on 6 December. This meeting was presided over by the Chair of the NHLF, Karl Briscoe, CEO of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIWHP).

Members welcomed Ms Lisa Orcher, CEO of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council (NATSIAACC), to her first meeting after NATSIAACC joined the NHLF earlier in the month.

This meeting recapped on the work of the NHLF during 2023 and discussed priorities for 2024. Further work around priorities, future directions including membership and identity will be undertaken in early 2024.

Members noted that 2024, will finally see the establishment of the long sought after Governance Group to oversee the monitoring and accountability of the 2021-2031 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and 2021-2031 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan. The NHLF, along with other stakeholders, will work with the Department of Health and Aged Care to set up the Governance Group and to ensure it will also have a key role in driving a strengths-based and cross-cutting approaches to holistic First Nations' health policy.

The NHLF and members are also on the Department's First Nations Aged Care Governance Group to advise on the implementation of the reforms to improve access and quality of aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It will be important to ensure these two Governance Groups complement each other to achieve best outcomes for First Nations people.

It is also worth acknowledging the efforts of the Department to co-design with stakeholders their Partnership and Engagement Framework, which will provide the foundation for how the Department works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and communities into the future. This work is ongoing with the aim of it being implemented during 2024.

The first meeting for 2024 will be a face-to-face workshop scheduled for 7 March 2024. For further information, please contact the nhlf@iaha.com.au.