

Communique of 11 June 2019 meeting

The second meeting of the Cultural Review Oversight Group was held in Canberra on 11 June 2019.

The meeting was Chaired by Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

As an agreed outcome from the first meeting, four additional members were welcomed to the Oversight Group:

- Dr Richard Singer, President, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation ACT;
- Dr Peter Hughes, President Visiting Medical Officers Association ACT;
- Professor Russell Gruen, Dean, College of Health and Medicine ANU; and
- Professor Michelle Lincoln, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health, University Canberra.

The meeting reaffirmed the intent of the Culture Review Oversight Group to oversight the implementation of the recommendations from the Final Report into the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.

The meeting also reinforced the opportunity and responsibility of the Group to lead and support the development of a positive workforce culture across the ACT public health system. Several members also articulated initiatives that were already underway to address the recommendations. The diverse range of members and the shared commitment was acknowledged to be integral in driving sustained cultural change. The Group agreed to develop a clear framework for how to measure success in developing a positive workplace culture, the milestones for this success and how this is reported to staff and the wider community.

Significant items discussed by the Oversight Group today include:

Terms of Reference

The meeting considered the draft Terms of Reference with agreement that following minor amendments, the Terms of Reference be made publicly available.

Presentation by Ms Karen Toohey, Health Services Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission

Ms Toohey presented on her role as the Health Services Commissioner and her mandate to handle complaints relating to health services. The discussion highlighted opportunities for collaboration with the Health Services Commissioner for the timely and effective resolution of complaints.

Engagement

Members emphasised effective engagement of all professions and staff across the ACT public health service.

Implementation Plan

A draft Implementation Plan was discussed and it was agreed that information be made available to inform the community on milestones, measurements of success and implementation progress. It was acknowledged that the Implementation Plan will develop over time and be publicly released when finalised later this year. Updates to the plan will also be made publicly available.

Government Response

The ACT Government's Response to the Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services was tabled at the ACT Legislative Assembly by Minister Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 16 May 2019. This was also supported on the same day by the public commitment made by Ministers Fitzharris and Rattenbury and the leaders of the three arms of the ACT public health system, Michael De'Ath (DG, ACT Health Directorate), Bernadette McDonald (CEO, Canberra Health Services) and Barb Reid (Regional CEO, Calvary ACT).

Public Commitment by the Culture Implementation Oversight Group

All members of the Oversight Group unanimously agreed to pledge their commitment in supporting and driving a positive workforce culture across the ACT public health system. The pledge is being developed and a public commitment will occur in the coming weeks.

Meeting schedule

The Culture Review Oversight Group will meet every three months, with the next meeting scheduled for 4 September 2019.

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