

COMMUNIQUE

NATIONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY: EXPERT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 28 NOV 2019

The Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, has committed to the development of a National Preventive Health Strategy (the Strategy). Individuals with relevant expertise have been appointed to an Expert Steering Committee (the Committee) which will provide advice on the development of the Strategy.

The Committee is chaired by Dr Lisa Studdert, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health, and includes experts across the public health, research, health promotion, medical, allied health and nursing fields.

The second meeting of the Committee was held on the 28 November 2019 in Sydney. A key focus of the meeting was to consider the input received during the six consultation sessions that had been undertaken with key stakeholders during October and November.

ROUNDTABLE CONSIDERATIONS

The Committee considered and further discussed the key points that were raised at each of the consultation workshops held to date.

Throughout the consultation sessions there was strong support for the Strategy to be a 'capstone' strategy, enabling and building on related plans and strategies that have either recently been or are currently being developed.

The Committee considered several examples of successful prevention efforts in Australia, with a particular focus on tobacco control, random breath testing and the response to HIV.

Some of the themes emerging from the discussion at the Committee meeting were:

- The positive and strong interest that has been shown by stakeholders in relation to a long term strategy for prevention.
- The importance of governance and monitoring to support the delivery of the Strategy.
- The need to focus on equity and populations that experience poorer health outcomes.
- The importance of understanding and focussing on 'best-buys' in prevention, scaling-up opportunities and implementing effective approaches.
- Developing both short and long-term actions for progress is required.
- The importance of sustained effort
- Exploring targets across whole-of-life.

NEXT STEPS

The following next steps were agreed:

- Further consultations will be held during December and in early 2020.
- The Committee will meet again early 2020 to consider the outcomes of these consultations and further progress the development of the strategy.
- Public consultation will commence in early 2020.