

# COMMUNIQUE

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## NATIONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY: EXPERT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 16 MARCH 2020

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The Australian Government 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 to inform the development of the Strategy.

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

Topic-specific workshops were held from October 2019 – January and the Living Well for Longer Survey was available online to consumers from 19 December 2019 – 14 February 2020.

The third meeting of the Committee was held on 16 March 2020 in Sydney.

### MEETING CONSIDERATIONS

The current COVID-19 public health situation and the communication activities developed by the Department in response to evolving situation were considered. It was agreed the Strategy needs to reflect the importance of communicable disease prevention.

The draft Consultation Paper was the main topic for consideration at the Committee meeting. The Department and the Sax Institute developed the draft Consultation Paper in order to summarise and reflect on what was heard during the initial stages of consultation as well as key prevention lessons from the past.

The Committee discussed the key themes that emerged from the last two topic-specific workshops that had occurred since the Committee met in November 2019. This included the Rural and Remote Health Roundtable held in collaboration with the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan in December 2019, and the Education Workshop in January 2020.

The Committee also discussed the initial results from the national consumer survey, the Living Well for Longer Survey, in which over 4,000 Australians had participated in.

The Committee was advised that Minister Hunt has agreed to extend the timeframe of the Strategy until September 2020, secondary to the emergence of unprecedented health priorities in early 2020.

### NEXT STEPS

The following next steps were agreed:

- Further refinement will be made to the draft Consultation Paper following feedback from the Committee.
- The Consultation Paper will be made available on the Department's Consultation Hub during April 2020.
- The feedback provided by the public during this phase of public consultation will be used to inform the development of the Strategy.
- Further public consultation on the draft Strategy will occur in mid-2020.
- The Department will continue to monitor and assess the timeframe for deliverables based on emerging health priorities.