Communiqué

December 2023 Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Group meeting

The independently chaired Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Group (the Oversight Group) held its fifth meeting on 7 December 2023.

The Oversight Group was established by Ahpra to provide assurance to the community, governments, health practitioners and industry stakeholders that Ahpra and the Medical Board (MBA) are implementing the recommendations of the *Independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery* (the independent review)

Consumer voice

The Oversight Group welcomed the establishment of the new Cosmetic Surgery Consumer Reference Group and noted that it held its first meeting in late October 2023. It was also noted that a focus group will be held with this group in January 2024 on the draft guidelines for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

Update on implementation progress of recommendations of the independent review

Members received a detailed progress update from Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia in relation to progress on each of the independent review's 16 recommendations. Members were pleased with Ahpra and the Medical Board's progress, noting that work on most recommendations is either complete or now embedded in Ahpra and the Medical Board's ongoing work.

Cosmetic surgery enforcement unit

Members received an update on work of Ahpra's Cosmetic Surgery Enforcement Unit.

Over the past 15 months, the Cosmetic Surgery hotline has received more than 600 calls, leading to 240 new notifications, with not every notification coming in via the hotline. Actions that have been taken regarding the notifications have resulted in 14 medical practitioners who are no longer registered, have been suspended or have significant limitations.

Update from the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care

Members noted the Commission's cosmetic surgery standards are being launched on 14 December 2024, with tools to assist service providers and information for consumers being developed.

Regulation of non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Members welcomed the Chair of the Dental Board of Australia to the Oversight Group given the wider focus on non-surgical cosmetic procedures. A representative from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has also been sought and will be in attendance at future meetings. Members noted that public consultation on the draft guidelines for non-surgical cosmetic procedures has commenced, with specific consumer consultation activities to occur.

Industry feedback session

Members met with invited guests from (in alphabetic order) the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine (ACCSM), the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS) and the

Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) to hear their insights into cosmetics sector reform, and how industry groups can contribute to these.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Oversight Group will be held on **21 March 2024**

More information

More information about Ahpra and National Boards' efforts to make cosmetic surgery safer can be found on Ahpra's dedicated Cosmetic surgery hub.

Questions about work of the Oversight Group may be directed to the secretariat via email to: ahpra.secretariat@ahpra.gov.au.

Members

Members of the Oversight Group are:

Ms Delia Rickard	Independent Chair
Ms Gill Callister PSM	Chair, Ahpra Board
Adj Prof Veronica Casey AM	Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Prof Anne Duggan	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Dr Paul Harrison	Unit Chair of Marketing and Consumer Behaviour, and Master of Business Administration Director, Deakin University
Ms Elizabeth Koff AM	Managing Director, Telstra Health
Adj Assoc Prof Sophie Scott	Health Reporter
Dr Anne Tonkin AO	Chair, Medical Board of Australia
Prof Euan Wallace AM	Secretary, Department of Health, Victoria
Dr Murray Thomas	Chair, Dental Board of Australia