

## Communiqué

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### August 2023 Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Group meeting

The independently chaired Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Group (the Oversight Group) held its fourth meeting on 25 August 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).

#### 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 each of the independent review's 16 recommendations. Members were pleased with Ahpra and the Medical Board's progress, noting that work has commenced on every recommendation, several recommendations are complete, and others have been completed pending further work with other entities. It is expected that the implementation of all recommendations will be either complete or integrated into ongoing business-as-usual work of Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia by the end of 2023.

#### 12-month anniversary of the release of the independent review's final report

Members acknowledged the work of Ahpra, the Medical Board and other stakeholders to reform health practitioner regulation in the cosmetic surgery sector to date, noting it was approximately the 12-month anniversary of public release of the final report of the independent review.

Mr Andrew Brown, the lead reviewer of the independent review joined the meeting and provided his insights and reflections on the review and the reform work to date, echoing views of members about the significant accomplishments over the past 12-months, largely a result of the commitment of stakeholders across the National Scheme.

#### Consumer voice

The Oversight Group were pleased that a Cosmetic Surgery Consumer Reference Group has been established following a recruitment campaign led by Ahpra. The Reference Group consists of individuals who have lived experience of the cosmetic procedure sector and will provide an important consumer perspective to the Oversight Group.

#### Cosmetic surgery enforcement unit

Members received an update on work of Ahpra's Cosmetic Surgery Enforcement Unit. As at 25 August 2023, there have been 171 cosmetic surgery related notifications made about 14 practitioners where interim action has been taken.

The advertising audit continues with 85 audits completed, 19 of which were against the new advertising guidelines resulting in three instances where conditions were imposed and six where a caution has been issued.

## Cosmetic surgery notification journey mapping

Members had the opportunity to review draft maps of the cosmetic surgery journey for consumers and the identification of potential opportunities for Ahpra and National Boards to influence decision making. These journey maps will be used as a basis for developing further communications and engagement to support safer experiences in cosmetic surgery.

## Regulation of non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Members were advised that work is underway to strengthen the regulation of non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Building on work of the Medical Board of Australia, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and Ahpra with other relevant Boards are proposing to develop new guidelines for registered health practitioners who perform and/or advertise non-surgical cosmetic procedures. This work will be consulted on over the coming months.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the Oversight Group will be held on **1 December 2023**

## 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](mailto: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