

Community Advisory Council communiqué

October 2025

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) met face to face and virtually on **Thursday, 23 October 2025** via Teams. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was being held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

Chair's report

Members noted that the CAC e-mail to the Chair of the Ahpra Board and Ahpra CEO was sent with an attached discussion paper that was endorsed by the CAC on 8th October 2025. Ahpra Board Chair, Gill Callister advised that the development of the paper had been raised with the Ahpra Board at their meeting in October and that there is a keenness by the Board to engage with issues raised following a meeting involving the Ahpra Chair, Ahpra CEO and CAC Chair. Members noted that a meeting was in the process of being scheduled.

The Chair advised that he would be attending the following events in November:

- the Pharmacy Board Forum in Melbourne on 30 October 2025,
- the National Multicultural Health and Wellbeing Conference along with Melba and an abstract paper has been accepted for presentation at the event, and
- the National Scheme Partnership Committee meeting in Sydney on 6 November 2025.

LGBTQIA+ presentation/workshop

Members noted the working draft of the LGBTQIA+ Equity and Inclusion Strategy

Members were advised of Ahpra's responsibility for public protection, legal obligations, and sectoral pressure for change. The vision for this piece of work is safe, accessible healthcare for LGBTQIA+ people, with responsive regulation and inclusive workplaces which will lead to improved safety, accessibility, and inclusiveness for all LGBTQIA+ patients, practitioners, and staff.

Members noted the three strategic pillars in the strategy

- **Learning and Language:** Training across the scheme, inclusive language, policy review, and accurate data practices.
- **Safety and Rights:** Proactive prevention of discrimination, legal compliance, and policy/process review in partnership with governments and community.
- **Engagement and Leadership:** Embedding LGBTQIA+ community voices in governance, increasing leadership visibility, supporting diversity, and accessible community engagement.

Consultation and engagement hub update

Members noted an update on the Consultation and Engagement Hub outlining the progress on vendor procurement and evaluation. An evaluation panel is currently reviewing submissions against requirements developed with input from the CAC and consultation teams. An advisory group has been invited to participate in vendor demonstrations to assess usability and overall suitability of the platforms. Feedback from CAC members on three example sites has been requested by 31 October to inform the evaluation process.

The proposed solution involves adopting a secure, government-approved platform that operates outside the existing website environment while integrating with current databases. This platform will support policy consultations, engagement activities, branding, marketing, and reporting, as well as stakeholder management. The benefits include improved efficiency through automation, enhanced data-driven reporting, and increased transparency to build trust and participation among diverse communities. Next steps include finalising the vendor recommendation by 24 October 2025.

National Scheme Strategy update

Extensive consultation was undertaken during July and August, resulting in the identification of three overarching themes and six strategic attributes that will guide the National Scheme Strategy. This process has been instrumental in shaping the strategic direction and ensuring alignment with stakeholder expectations and regulatory priorities.

One of the highlighted strategic attributes is the elevation of community voices, which reflects a strong commitment to incorporating feedback from both the Community Advisory Council and broader community stakeholders. This emphasis on transparency and engagement is intended to strengthen trust and ensure that the strategy is responsive to diverse perspectives.

Please advise the Community Advisory Council if you have any emerging topics for discussion for their upcoming meetings.

The next meeting of the Community Advisory Council is face to face on Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

Hamza Vayani

Chair