

## Community Advisory Council communiqué

**September 2025**

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) met face to face and virtually on **Thursday, 11 September 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

The Chair provided an update highlighting the following:

- on 7 August, he had attended the Board Partnership Committee meeting with all National Board Chairs and also participated in the NRAS Chairs Forum.
- meetings have been held involving the project on engagement and reporting requirements for the Engagement and Consultation Hub, which is progressing well.
- there has been a meeting with Nick, Heather, and Kirsty, discussing additional capacity for the CAC and how that might look, with conversations tying into broader questions around engagement and community involvement.
- on 3 September, he attended the Accreditation meeting, focusing on interprofessional collaboration and streamlining team-based practice standards.
- on 9 September, he presented at the NRAS Annual Accreditation Forum in Melbourne, highlighting consumer and lived experience perspectives in accreditation. The presentation was well received and shifted the discussion from whether community should be engaged to how best to achieve how community can be engaged.

### Update from Regulatory Experience and Engagement Team

Members:

1. reviewed [the video](#) and provided feedback ahead of filming the next three videos,
2. reviewed the postcard, provided feedback and approved REET to progress accordingly, and
3. noted the verbal update on the Community of Practice.

Members noted an update on the progress of the Community of Practice and there have been volunteers nominated by Boards and include some of the CAC members to join the working group. A scheduling poll will be sent soon, aiming for the first meeting before the end of the month and full implementation by the end of the year.

### Draft guidance – Sexual misconduct and the National Law consultation

Members noted an update from Ahpra's General Counsel advising that upcoming changes to National Law are expected to take effect in 2026, requiring publication on the public register of practitioners found to have engaged in professional misconduct involving sexual misconduct. The legislation has already passed and will apply retrospectively to cases since 2010, meaning information will remain on the register permanently. National Boards are now required to determine whether misconduct involves sexual misconduct and publish guidance to support consistent decision-making. A draft of this guidance is out for consultation. The consultation process includes engagement with victim-survivor groups and other stakeholders, acknowledging the complexity and sensitivity of the issue.

## **Multicultural committee update**

Members noted an update and presentation on the Multicultural Committee's work, which aims to improve accessibility for multicultural communities engaging with the National Scheme. This work responds to a health ministerial policy direction requiring consideration of priority communities including multicultural, LGBTQI+, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people with disabilities when developing standards and policies. To date, Ahpra has implemented an engagement strategy, conducted focus groups with multicultural agencies, developed translated materials, and created an access project plan. In 2024, the committee was formalised with representation from the Community Advisory Council and developed a program logic to guide its work. Key challenges include the absence of national standards for multicultural engagement, unlike frameworks such as the Rainbow Tick for LGBTQI+ communities.

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