



# Australian Government

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## Department of Health

### National Initial Assessment and Referral (IAR) for Mental Healthcare Project

Expert Advisory Group - Terms of Reference

#### Background

The National Initial Assessment and Referral (IAR) for Mental Healthcare Guidance is a tool to assist general practitioners (GPs) and clinicians to recommend the most appropriate level of mental health care. The IAR is an initiative of the Australian Department of Health and provides advice to Primary Health Networks (PHNs), commissioned providers, and referrers on establishing effective systems for the initial assessment and referral of individuals presenting with mental health conditions in primary health care settings.

During the next stage of the project (Stage 5), the Department of Health will explore and process necessary adjustments to the IAR Guidance and IAR-DST with a focus on children and young people.

#### 1. Aim

The aim of the Expert Advisory Group is to contribute to a project and product that is clinically sound and evidence based.

#### 2. Responsibilities

Members of the Expert Advisory Group are responsible for:

- providing expert clinical advice regarding the development of national guidance and resources for children and young people with a particular focus on:
  - revision of domain descriptions to include content relevant to children and young people;
  - revision of rating point descriptors within the Glossary relevant to children and young people;
  - description of the core and support services within the Levels of Care relevant to children and young people;
  - advice about standard assessment tools appropriate for children and young people;
  - examining and testing the logic to determine sameness or alterations needed;
  - develop a child and youth Glossary;
  - release a draft for the purposes of consultation with youth mental health and PHN sectors; and
  - release and publish a child and youth version of IAR Guidance.

- reviewing draft guidance material, providing timely and comprehensive advice and feedback to the National Project Manager.
- actively supporting the project and acting as an advocate for its outcomes.
- providing advice on clinical governance.
- ensuring the project is person centred, respectful of, and responsive to, the preferences, needs and goals of people with lived experience of mental health issues and distress.

### 3. Membership

Name	Organisation, Position
Dr Caroline Johnson	Chair nominee
	RACGP nominee
	Child/Youth Lived experience nominee
	Child/Youth Lived experience nominee
Sarah Sutton	Carer representative
Evan Bichara	Consumer representative
<i>Dr Lee Allen</i>	RANZCP nominee
<i>Debra Parnell</i>	AASW nominee
Vinita Godinho	APS nominee
<i>Dr Natisha Sands</i>	ACMHN nominee
	ACRRM nominee
	Headspace National nominee
	Orygen nominee
Learne Durrington	WAPHA
Dr Danny Rock	WAPHA
Tonita Taylor	Brisbane North PHN
Professor Nick Titov	Executive Director, MindSpot
Dr Shane Cross	Director, Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney
<i>Dr Meredith Harris</i>	University of Queensland nominee
Dr Leanne Beagley	Mental Health Australia

Dr Josephine Anderson	UNSW/Black Dog Institute nominee
<i>Assoc. Prof Victoria Palmer</i>	University of Melbourne nominee
Sandy Gillies	PHN steering committee representative (WQ)/NATSILMH
Bill Buckingham	Advisor
Anthea Raven	Department of Health
Polly Obst	Department of Health
Jenni Campbell	National Project Manager, Morgan Campbell Health Consultants

#### 4. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

Information shared and discussions held during meetings are confidential, unless otherwise specified. Members of the Expert Advisory Group will be required to disclose any conflict of interest.

#### 5. Operating Procedures

- **Secretariat**
  - Secretariat support will be provided, organisation to be confirmed.
- **Meetings**
  - The Expert Advisory Group will meet via video-conference every 8-12 weeks. Out of session engagement and work is likely.
- **Records**
  - The Secretariat will prepare, maintain and circulate: agendas, meeting papers, minutes and action logs. A copy of the agenda and meeting papers are to be sent to members in advance of each meeting. A copy of the minutes and action log are to be sent to members following each meeting.

**End**