



# National Mental Health Commission holds first meeting of Advisory Council

## Communique

The first meeting of the National Mental Health Commission's (Commission) Advisory Council was held on 30 April 2026. The meeting was attended by Council members and chaired by the Commission CEO, David McGrath.

The Council was established to give strategic advice and expert insight to the Commission to support its work to help to improve Australia's mental health system. The Council brings together national leaders and subject matter experts, including those with lived experience.

At the meeting:

1. The Chair outlined the Council's role as providing strategic and project-related advice to the Commission. It will do this by, for example, reviewing key documents and identifying opportunities, risks and areas for system improvement.
2. Members agreed to the Terms of Reference.
3. The Commission briefed members on its strategic context and invited feedback on the draft Strategic Framework.
  - a. Members supported the Commission's role as a national, system-level body undertaking monitoring and reporting and providing evidence-driven advice.
  - b. Members suggested ways to strengthen the draft Strategic Framework, including by being clearer, where possible, about the Commission's long-term direction.
4. Members discussed the Commission's mandate, operating context and organisational structure, including under the current interim arrangements.
5. Members agreed they share a commitment to coordinated, evidence-based reform and long-term improvement of mental health outcomes.
6. Members discussed major projects including the National Report Card and the Stigma and Discrimination Report Card. They talked about each project's purpose, progress so far and how their input can improve future work.
7. Members stressed the need for better data, meaningful engagement with the sector and practical ways to turn evidence into system improvement.

The Advisory Council will meet regularly to provide advice on new issues and discuss strategic priorities of the Commission. The Commission looks forward to working with Council members to help shape national discussions and support better mental health outcomes for people across Australia.