

## **Response to Senator Murray Watt's request to Brendan Murphy of 10 February 2022**

### ***Question:***

Senator Watt requested, in advance of Senate Estimates on 16 February 2022, a list of Health Peak organisations that:

- Have received a continuation of funding in the latest funding round,
- Have received funding in the previous funding round but have failed to receive funding in the latest round,
- Have not received funding prior to the latest round but have received funding in the latest funding round

### ***Answer:***

The aim of the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies (HPAB) Program is to support health peak and advisory bodies to contribute to the national agenda by providing expert, evidence-based and impartial advice to inform current health policy and program development whilst supporting communication and consultation activities

Round 3 of the HPAB Program will start on 1 July 2022. Applications for Round 3 opened on 27 April 2021 and closed on 21 May 2021. It was an open, competitive grants round. Potential applicants were advised the Australian Government would look favourably at applicants that have a national presence, nation-wide membership, and who are able to contribute to the national health agenda and priorities set out in the draft National Preventive Health Strategy. To minimise duplication and maximise outreach, potential applicants were also advised that only one organisation per health sector would be funded.

The HPAB Program is a capped program. On 28 April 2021, the Minister for Health and Aged Care announced that \$23.7 million was available for Round 3.

There was strong interest in Round 3. The Department of Health received 130 applications from 127 organisations, seeking a total of \$187.7 million. The Department undertook a 3-stage assessment process. Each tier was assessed by a separate group of departmental officers to minimise bias and any conflict of interest in the process.

The Department's Assessment Committee recommended 21 organisations for funding under Round 3. The Minister accepted this advice in full, and announced the 21 successful organisations on 13 December 2021.

The Department made offers to each of the successful organisations on 1 December 2021. All the successful organisations have accepted their offer. The Department is finalising the terms of funding agreements with each of these 21 organisations.

Five of the 21 organisations are currently supported under Round 2 of the program. A total of 23 organisations are funded under Round 2, and this round was originally due to conclude on 30 June 2022.

In December 2021, the Minister agreed to offer Round 2 organisations a one year extension of their funding agreement (to 30 June 2023) with an additional year of funding. The extension was offered in recognition of the disruption COVID-19 has had on the organisations' activities and alternative revenue raising opportunities. This offer was not made to the five organisations who will conclude their Round 2 funding agreements on 30 June 2022 and enter new HPAB funding agreements for Round 3 commencing 1 July 2022.

The five organisations who are supported in Round 2 and were successful in Round 3 are:

1. Allied Health Professions Australia
2. Consumers Health Forum of Australia
3. National Rural Health Alliance
4. Public Health Association of Australia
5. Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia

The remaining 18 organisations from Round 2 are:

1. Australian College of Nursing
2. Australian Federation of AIDS Orgs
3. Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia
4. Asthma Australia
5. Australian Association of Practice Managers
6. Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
7. Continence Foundation of Australia
8. Haemophilia Foundation Australia
9. Heart Support-Australia
10. Hepatitis Australia
11. Lifeline Australia
12. Macular Disease Foundation Australia
13. Mental Health Australia
14. Metabolic Dietary Disorders Association
15. National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
16. Palliative Care Australia
17. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
18. Rural Doctors Association of Australia

The 16 organisations not supported under Round 2 but who were successful in Round 3 are:

1. Australia Research Alliance for Children and Youth
2. Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Council
3. Australian Association of Adolescent Health
4. Australian Health Promotion Association
5. Australian Men's Health Forum
6. Australian Sleep Association
7. Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine
8. Australian Women's Health Network

9. Australasian Institute of Digital Health
10. Deafness Forum Ltd
11. Health Justice Australia Ltd
12. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
13. Lung Foundation Australia
14. Migration Council of Australia
15. Obesity Australia
16. Suicide Prevention Australia

The HPAB Program supports only a small number of health peak and advisory bodies. The Department and Government continue to work closely with a broad range of peak and representative bodies across the portfolio. The Department provides funding through a range of other programs to these bodies, including to many of the 18 bodies from Round 2 who were unsuccessful in Round 3.

## Senate Committee: Community Affairs

### Department of Health

#### Additional Estimates 2021-2022

##### Question Subject: Senate Estimates Preparation

Senator: Murray Watt

**Question: Labor Senators intend to ask questions at Senate Estimates on Thursday about the following matters:**

- Information provided to CALD communities on the use of Rapid-antigen tests.

##### **Answer:**

- The Department of Health has communications materials on the use of rapid antigen tests available on our website, translated in 63 languages for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) audiences. These include:
  - Free rapid antigen and PCR tests are available (social tile)
  - Getting tested for COVID-19 (fact sheet)
- A range of additional communications are being developed or are under consideration by the CALD Communications Advisory Group, including:
  - How to use a nasal swab rapid antigen test
  - How to use a rapid antigen oral saliva test
  - Understanding test results
  - Rapid antigen tests handout
- Once feedback has been received by the advisory group these resources will be translated into 63 languages and published on the Department's website and distributed in stakeholder packs.
- **Easy Read** - an Easy Read resource that provides general information on how to use nasal swab tests has just been published on the website. This is being adapted and translated for CALD audiences as a priority.
- Other Easy Read resources under development, which will be translated are:
  - How to do a saliva swab rapid antigen test
  - Living with COVID
  - Access to rapid antigen tests for concession card holders
  - What to do if you're living with someone with COVID-19, and
  - What to do if you're a close contact.
- **Animation** - The Department is also developing an animation on rapid antigen testing specifically for CALD audiences.

- **Stakeholder Engagement** - At the 5 January meeting the CALD COVID-19 Advisory Group was advised that the Department is actively considering the development of information and that translations were underway. They were updated on the progress at the 28 January 2022 meeting and the communication sub-working group is actively involved in the development process.
- A pack including resources developed was sent to all stakeholder on 11 February.
- The Advisory Group has also been informed that a requirement for a rapid antigen self-test to be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the of instructions for use that can be easily understood by consumers.
- Pamphlets on how to use each specific test (Information for Use - IFUs) can be downloaded on the TGA website for use by caregivers, community members or others who may be supporting the user.
- The majority of IFUs have images or diagrams to make the instructions as accessible as possible. IFUs can be found in the TGA's website.
- Suppliers of any self-test approved by the TGA must also offer a telephone helpline or website support service to assist consumers about how to correctly use the test, including making sure they get the right amount of specimen and how to interpret the results.
- Many of the suppliers' websites include instructional videos or simple graphical instructions in the correct use and performance of the device. Many suppliers also make their instructions available in different languages, published on the sponsor websites.