

Meeting Communique: Premier's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council

Wednesday 14 August 2024 – 14:00 to 15:30

Premier's Reception Room, Level 11, 15 Murray Street, Hobart

Attendance

Attendees: Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, the Hon Guy Barnett MP; Mr Graeme Lynch AM (Chair); Associate Professor Verity Cleland (Deputy Chair); Dr Katrena Stephenson; Ms Caroline Wells; Mr Phil Edmondson; Professor Richard Eccleston; Mr Kris McCracken (proxy for Mr Mat Healey) and Dr Scott McKeown.

Apologies: Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP; Ms Connie Digolis; Ms Kym Goodes and Mr Mat Healey.

Guest: Dr Michelle Morgan (Wellbeing Framework project lead).

The Premier's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council (the Council) met on Wednesday 14 August 2024. Mr Graeme Lynch chaired the first part of the meeting before the Chair was handed to Assoc Prof Verity Cleland. The Council discussed several key initiatives and developments in the health and wellbeing sector in Tasmania.

Resignation of Chair

The current Chair, Mr Graeme Lynch AM, announced his resignation from the role. Minister Barnett accepted Mr Lynch's resignation and recognised Mr Lynch's exemplary leadership and advocacy in the health and wellbeing sector as the Council Chair since its inception in 2017. Minister Barnett noted Mr Lynch's role in driving key initiatives such as the Leaders Breakfast and Health in All Policies Forum and the establishment of the Tasmanian Active Living Coalition.

Mr Lynch reflected on the Council's achievements, including national and international recognition of its work, and suggested some areas of future focus. Assoc Prof Verity Cleland took the Chair and echoed Minister Barnett's thanks to Mr Lynch.

20-Year Preventive Health Strategy for Tasmania

Dr Scott McKeown briefed the Council on the development of a new 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy for Tasmania, aimed at transforming the State's health outcomes through a comprehensive, systems-based approach. This Strategy, currently in its early stages of development, will address the significant impact of chronic conditions on the Tasmanian population. The Council welcomed this announcement and discussed the role it can play in the development, implementation and championing of this Strategy.

Wellbeing Framework for Tasmania

Dr Michelle Morgan provided an update on the Wellbeing Framework for Tasmania, which is now in its final stages of development. Shaped by extensive public consultation, this Framework seeks to create a unified vision of wellbeing across multiple sectors. Dr Morgan noted that a data dashboard will be developed to track progress across key wellbeing indicators to support the Framework's implementation. Council members congratulated Dr Morgan on this approach and expressed an interest in maintaining a relationship with the work moving forward.

Council work plan and membership

The Council revisited its workplan and discussed a refresh of its membership. The Council is also considering how to enhance its advisory capacity to the Premier and Government on health and wellbeing issues, particularly in relation to the 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy and the Wellbeing Framework.

Closing remarks

The Council concluded the meeting with a commitment to continue working closely with the Tasmanian Government on key health and wellbeing initiatives.

Minister Barnett reiterated his commitment to working closely with the Council, particularly in addressing emerging health challenges, with a focus on e-cigarette regulation and broader tobacco control initiatives. He expressed his appreciation for the Council's ongoing work and invited members to continue their engagement on these critical issues.

Next meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 16 December 2024.