

Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel – Communiqué Meeting 4 June 2026

This Communiqué provides stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) held on 4 June 2026.

The MAP provides direct feedback to the Minister for Health; Mental Health (Minister) about system performance and reform progress. This advice contributes to the delivery of a system that adopts a person and family-centred approach and encapsulates whole of system priorities. The MAP is also a forum through which the Minister provides updates to the mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors on strategic priorities.

Minister's Update

The Minister reflected on the launch of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026-2031 (Strategy) on 21 April 2026 and reinforced the importance of transparent reporting through Annual Implementation and Monitoring Plans (AIM Plans). The Minister advised that the 2026-2027 AIM Plan will be released in July and will outline key actions the Mental Health Commission will lead or support, while also highlighting major initiatives that are being led by other State Government agencies to assist in delivery.

The Minister provided an overview of the components of the 2026-27 WA State Budget that will assist in delivering mental health and alcohol and other drugs services aligned to the priorities outlined in the Strategy. The Minister highlighted the new community-bed based service pilot, Crisis Response and Intervention Support Service (CRISS), designed to reduce Emergency Department presentations, as well as the extension funding provided for the Model for Violence Prevention Pilot and the Broome Needle and Syringe Exchange program.

National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement

Members considered a paper prepared by the Minister which provided an overview of the development of the next National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (National Agreement).

The following considerations were highlighted to support member discussion:

- Negotiations associated with the National Agreement will focus on achieving the best outcomes for Western Australia in the context of the Commonwealth priorities and available funding.
- Timelines are very tight, requiring Western Australia to be responsive throughout the development process, including the ability to consult with key stakeholders and peak agencies as required.
- Whilst funding is important, a new National Agreement will provide an opportunity for strengthened service integration and other key issues where additional effort should be directed.

Key discussion points informing advice to the Minister included:

- A focus on system integration to ensure Commonwealth and state funded services are aligned.
- There are ongoing challenges for addressing psychosocial supports outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and there needs to be a continued focus on ensuring there are adequate psychosocial supports for those experiencing complex challenges.
- Consideration of other models in Western Australia aligned to local priorities that complement national models such as Medicare Mental Health Services.
- Importance of joint planning and service integration between Commonwealth and State funded services.
- The importance of ensuring the National Agreement has a focus on priority groups, social and emotional wellbeing and strengthening support for those with co-occurring alcohol and other drug use.

Psychosocial supports policy reform

Members considered a paper developed by the Minister which provided an update on Psychosocial supports policy reform, noting the work being undertaken by the Commonwealth and the intersects with the National Agreement on Foundational Supports and Thriving Kids.

Key discussion points informing advice to the Minister included:

- Challenges for people and families in navigating the NDIS and understanding the impact on people and families because of pending changes to the scheme.
- Noting compressed timelines for negotiations, the need for ongoing stakeholder consultation, including with Lived Experience expertise.
- Clearly defining the role of the State Government in the provision of psychosocial supports and continuing to prioritise Targeted Foundational Supports.
- Ensuring the needs of Aboriginal people are prioritised in considerations for psychosocial supports.
- The intersection of psychosocial supports with justice and health as people transition from the justice system back to the community.
- The importance of peer workforces and non-medical model approaches within the provision of psychosocial supports delivery.

Alcohol and other drugs – addressing stigma and discrimination

Members considered a paper developed by the Alliance to End Substance Use Stigma WA and commenced discussion regarding stigma and discrimination faced by people who use alcohol and other drugs.

Key discussion points informing advice to the Minister included:

- Alcohol and other drug related stigma and discrimination can impact on the healthcare people receive, willingness to seek help, connection and engagement with family and community, and intersecting issues such as employment and housing.
- Approaches used in the Family and Domestic Violence setting are useful models which could be applied to alcohol and other drugs, such as workforce capability to address co-occurring issues and flexible service models.
- The importance of strengthening workforce capability to provide trauma-informed care, and the need for inclusive and contemporary policies that support equitable access.

It was agreed that this issue be discussed further at the next MAP meeting.

Joint Leadership Group Update

Members noted a brief update from the Joint Leadership Group meeting held on 14 May 2026.

The next MAP meeting has been rescheduled to 1 September 2026.

You may distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the JLG, CAG and LEAG are available on the [Mental Health Commission website](#).