

Communique

The ACT Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board (the Partnership Board) met on Monday 2 December 2019 for its final meeting of the year.

Key action items considered by the Partnership Board included:

- **Appointments of the Chairs to the Research Working Group and Workforce Education and Training Working Group**

In August 2019, the Partnership Board opened an Expressions of Interest to appoint Chairs for the Research Working Group and Workforce Education and Training Working Group.

In December 2019, the Partnership Board agreed to the interim appointment of Professor Graham Mann, Director of The John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University to the position of Chair of the Research Working Group.

The Partnership Board also agreed to the appointment of Dr Jane Frost, Associate Professor in Nursing from the University of Canberra to the Chair of the Workforce Education and Training Working Group. Professor Mann and Dr Frost bring a wealth of experience to these roles.

Professor Mann is the Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University and is a principal investigator at the Melanoma Institute Australia, University of Sydney. He co-leads a highly translational research program on melanoma and co-leads the Australian Melanoma Genome Project. A distinguished researcher, Professor Mann holds grants worth more than \$23 million over the last five years.

Dr Frost is the Associate Professor in Nursing and Program Director, School of Nursing and Midwifery and Public Health at the University of Canberra. Dr Frost is a highly experienced educator, endorsed Nurse Practitioner, academic and TEDx speaker. She is committed to education and training. In 2019 Dr Frost became a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has been nominated for an Australian Award for University Teaching Citation.

These important Working Groups will drive innovation and improvements in health outcomes for the Canberra community.

The Partnership Board will hold meetings in January 2020 with Professor Mann and Dr Frost to establish priority actions, the broader workplan and membership of the Working Groups.

- **Research Management**

The Partnership Board discussed research management across the Territory with a focus on improving efficiencies and synergies between different organisations to optimise available skills and expertise.

One of the first priority actions for the newly established Research Working Group will be to drive initiatives, such as improvements to the management of Intellectual Property.

It is anticipated that these projects will streamline the conduct of research activity and enable greater collaboration between the health services and the tertiary education sector.

- **The Wellbeing Indicators Framework**

The Partnership Board was provided with an update on the Wellbeing Indicators Framework being led by Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD). The Wellbeing Indicators Framework is being launched on Canberra Day, 1 March 2020. CMTEDD is currently undertaking significant community consultation in developing the Indicators. Their consultation has highlighted the value the community places on access to quality health services and timely care.

The Partnership Board members will continue to work closely with the Wellbeing Indicators Project Team to inform this work and will actively contribute by sharing guidance and expertise as the project evolves.

- **The HealthANSWERS Partnership**

The Partnership Board discussed the progress of the HealthANSWERS Partnership and members reaffirmed their commitment to this initiative. There is a strong common interest in driving forward the vision of the HealthANSWERS Partnership and growing its capacity to provide translational research outcomes for the Canberra community and region.

The Partnership Board also discussed potential collaboration between organisations in applying for upcoming Medical Research Future Fund grants. This collaboration would involve establishing targeted Working Groups to effectively progress any proposal as part of the HealthANSWERS partnership.

The Partnership Board met quarterly in 2019. In 2020, the Board will meet on a bi-monthly basis. Contact: ACTHWPPartnershipBoard@act.gov.au

For more information visit the [ACT Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board](#) page.

