

National Eating Disorders Collaboration: Submission to the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review in response to the Interim Report

This submission has been prepared by the National Eating Disorders Collaboration (NEDC) in response to the Productivity Commission's Interim Report for the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement review. NEDC thanks the Productivity Commission for the opportunity to provide further comment.

The Productivity Commission's Interim Report provides a valuable picture of the challenges faced in implementing the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement actions, and in achieving its intended system reform. NEDC supports the Interim Report's recommendations that a more strategic approach is needed to guide mental health and suicide prevention action and reform.

In 2023, NEDC released the [National Eating Disorders Strategy 2023-2033](#) (National Strategy), which provides a clear roadmap to guide sector development and policy decision-making for the next decade. The national and state eating disorder organisations are unified in support of the National Strategy. Successful implementation of the National Strategy requires action and change within the broader mental health and suicide prevention system, not just within eating disorder-specific services. NEDC is working at a national, state/territory and regional level to support these changes, including via actions specified in the Bilateral schedules.

Should the Commonwealth accept the Productivity Commission's findings that a new mental health and suicide prevention policy architecture is needed, NEDC looks forward to contributing to future discussions about what this policy architecture will look like. NEDC is uniquely positioned to draw on the National Strategy to ensure that the needs of people experiencing or at risk of eating disorders are integrated into future reforms.

While the findings of the Productivity Commission's review are considered, NEDC will continue to drive change via the priority actions identified within the National Strategy, and to support the eating disorder-specific initiatives within the Bilateral schedules.

Further information

For further information, please contact Louise Dougherty, NEDC Strategy and Policy Lead,

About NEDC

NEDC is a national sector collaboration dedicated to developing and implementing a nationally consistent, evidence-based system of care for the prevention and treatment of eating disorders. NEDC is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Over the past decade NEDC has created a large body of comprehensive, evidence-based information and resources which establish standards for prevention and treatment of eating disorders. NEDC implements these standards in system-building projects, workforce development and consultation.

To inform its work, NEDC engages a broad range of stakeholders, including people with lived experience of eating disorders and their families and supports, clinicians, researchers, and other experts. NEDC has more than 14 000 members. NEDC also provides expert consultation and guidance on evidence-based provision of eating disorder services to policymakers and to national, state/territory and regional health, mental health and community organisations. NEDC's work is led by National Director Dr Sarah Trobe and Steering Committee Chair Professor Phillipa Hay with the NEDC team and a Steering Committee of experts in lived experience, clinical services, and research.