

# ENDOMETRIOSIS ADVISORY GROUP (EAG)

## COMMUNIQUE

6 December 2018

On 9 November, the first meeting was held of the Endometriosis Advisory Group (EAG), formed at the request of the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health, to inform the Department on key endometriosis matters and to provide advice regarding implementation of the National Action Plan for Endometriosis (the Action Plan).

The Action Plan was launched on 26 July 2018, and contains guidance and direction around key goals and priorities for endometriosis. A copy of the Action Plan can be accessed from the Department of Health website at [National Action Plan for Endometriosis](#).

The EAG lends considerable clinical, academic and consumer expertise on endometriosis to the Department and provides representation from a number of key endometriosis organisations. The Terms of Reference detailing the duties and operations of the EAG can be accessed from the [National Action Plan for Endometriosis](#) webpage.

At the inaugural meeting of the Group, current and impending activity for endometriosis in the national space was discussed. This work predominantly involves education, training and awareness activities that align with actions recommended under Priority 1 of the Action Plan and that are in keeping with the scope of the \$1 million [Infant Health – Increasing knowledge – endometriosis](#) measure announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget. The Department is also negotiating a contract for the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Endometriosis, a seminal document that will identify and direct best practice treatment and management for Australian women affected by endometriosis.

Clinical research into endometriosis, and associated issues, was discussed by the members. The Group received an update on developments regarding the Clinical Research Network, which is being managed by Jean Hailes for Women's Health with funding through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The Group noted advice from the Department that it could not directly consider research activities, as there are separate governance processes in place regarding the MRFF.

The EAG members expressed strong support for the budget measure activities and the key endometriosis organisations are keen to contribute to these activities where possible. While all Action Plan priorities were discussed at the meeting, the EAG members will give special consideration to patient care pathway issues ahead of the next meeting of the group in 2019. This targeted consideration recognises that at least two years will be needed to develop the Clinical Practice Guidelines, and clinicians will require consistent and appropriate guidance to support the care they provide to endometriosis patients during this period. In addition, a sub-group of the EAG will also be preparing advice for the Department regarding endometriosis Centres of Expertise.