

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Project Advisory Committee

Meeting 2 - Communiqué

The second meeting of the NSQHS Standards Project Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held in-person in Sydney on 26 November 2025. The meeting was facilitated by co-chairs Kirstine Sketcher-Baker (Queensland Health) and Chris Leahy (Chief Operating Officer, ACSQHC), Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan (CEO, ACSQHC) and Margaret Banks (Director, National Standards).

The Commission presented an overview of work on the development of the [NSQHS Standards \(third edition\)](#) since the Committee last met, including an update on the:

- strategic intent and direction
- key themes from the first public consultation (July to September)
- key focus areas for the third edition, including governance, leadership, evidence-based practice, cultural safety and sustainability
- development of the draft National Model for Clinical Governance and its alignment with the next edition of the standards.
- National Clinical Trials Governance Framework consultations.

Findings from public consultation

The Commission held over 100 forums, received 193 submissions, and collected 1,046 surveys, with almost half from community members. The key themes include cultural safety, person-centred care, clinical governance, digital health and communication. The Commission proposed suggested changes to the Committee, including reducing the number of standards, a greater focus on patients and the foundation blocks of high-quality care.

Development of first draft of the NSQHS Standards (3rd ed.) v0.1

The Committee participated in group activities to discuss the direction of the Clinical Governance Standard and early drafts of the other standards. The Commission will present the Committee's feedback to the NSQHS Standards Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and consider it for inclusion in the next iteration of the draft NSQHS Standards.

Next steps

The Commission will continue to review consultation feedback and workshop findings to refine the standards for the ESC meeting. The project team is preparing for the second consultation in 2026 and is finalising the draft standards to be shared for review and input.

Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for the first half of 2026.

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries to NSQHSSThirdEdition@safetyandquality.gov.au.