

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

Meeting 3 - Communiqué

The third meeting of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Project Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held on 6 August 2026. The meeting was facilitated by Co-chairs Kirstine Sketcher-Baker (Queensland Health) and Chris Leahy (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care).

The Commission provided a progress overview on the development of the NSQHS Standards (third edition), including the second public consultation, the structure and intent of the initial draft Standards, key areas for refinement, the proposed quality assessment framework and the next stages of consultation, piloting and approval.

Second consultation

The second public consultation on the NSQHS Standards (third edition), is open between 25 July to 25 September 2026, with an additional week for First Nations surveys and submissions.

The consultation is seeking feedback on safety and quality priorities, coordination across services and settings, continuous learning and improvement, clarity, feasibility, applicability and assessment.

Members emphasised inclusive engagement with people from non-English speaking backgrounds, minority groups and people with limited or no digital access

Initial draft NSQHS Standards (third edition)

Members expressed broad support for the structure and intent of the Standards. Feedback focused on strengthening equity, person-centred care, workforce wellbeing, integrated care, measurable implementation, and practical governance arrangements, while ensuring requirements remain evidence-based, achievable and proportionate across different health service settings.

The Commission will consider the feedback when developing the second draft.

Next steps

Consultation feedback will inform the second draft, which is expected to be reviewed by the Project Advisory Committee and Executive Steering Committee in November and December 2026. Further consultation and piloting are planned from March to June 2027.

Next meeting

The next Project Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 25 November 2026.

Enquiries

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