



A virtual consultative forum on future reforms to Better Access

The overall aim of the forum is to gain a broad and inclusive perspective on the future of Better Access.

The forum is one of nine studies that make up the evaluation of the Better Access program. It is one of the two studies that are focussed on future directions for Better Access.

The forum is taking a novel approach to stakeholder consultation by asking stakeholders from across the sector and community to collectively identify and prioritise targets for future reform of Better Access.

Stakeholders represented in the forum are:

- Mental health service provider groups – including those who are currently eligible to deliver Better Access funded services and those that are not.
- Organisations representing consumers of mental health services, people with lived experience of mental health problems and carers of people with mental health problems.
- Organisations with a focus on advocating for the health and wellbeing of diverse populations including First Nations people, culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTIQ+ people.
- Policy makers and mental and general health systems experts.

What does the virtual forum involve?

Phase 1: A brief online survey nominating three issues you consider most important for Better Access moving forward. The survey should take 15minutes.

Phase 2: An online discussion on a platform called Loomio, contributing your views on the issues identified in Phase 1. Participants can dip in and out of the discussion over a period of 10 days. The amount of time the discussion takes will depend on how often and how in-depth your contributions are. We estimate it may be between 1–2 hours.

Phase 3: A survey ranking the revised issues that emerged from the Loomio discussion and provide any further comments. The survey should take 20-30 minutes.

What is Loomio and how will participants use it?

Loomio is an online text-based discussion platform designed to assist groups with collaborative decision making.

Forum participants will use the Loomio platform to contribute their views on and perspectives to the issues identified in Phase 1 and respond to the comments made by other participants.

Participants can contribute to the discussion at a time that suits them and are encouraged to make multiple contributions over the 10-day period the forum is live.

Pseudonyms are used to encourage free exchange and avoid privileging any particular group or perspective above others.

Participants are expected to engage respectfully and be civil at all times in their comments, respecting the views and experiences of others.

More detailed instructions on how to use Loomio will be provided prior to Phase 2 commencing.

What training is needed?

Loomio has been designed to be simple to use with minimal training.

However, we will be running an introductory webinar to provide an overview and to answer any questions.

Those who cannot attend the live webinar will not miss out! The webinar will be recorded and a link to the recording emailed to all participants.

What happens when?

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| Phase 1: Survey | 29 August - 4 September |
| Phase 2: | |
| Loomio Live Webinar | 12 September |
| Loomio forum open | 12 - 21 September |
| Phase 3: Survey | 30 September - 7 October |

The evaluation team will be in touch at each stage to notify participants of upcoming activities and provide additional information.

