

**Danny O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chair. Secretary, can I move to mental health. In previous hearings we have asked for an updated Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System implementation plan. Could we ask for that again, but on this occasion could we include a summary of progress against all recommendations, a revised implementation date for overdue recommendations and, where relevant, an explanation as to why recommendations are overdue?**

**Response:**

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System provided timelines to guide implementation over a ten-year time frame. The Department of Health has been working with the mental health and wellbeing sector and stakeholders to reflect on their experience of the reform program so far, which has informed a resequencing of initiatives for the next stage of reform.

In December 2024, the Government released *The Next Phase of Reform: Mental health and wellbeing in Victoria* as a roadmap that signals the priorities and direction for reform implementation for the next three years. The roadmap re-phases some work in response to sector feedback and builds on the foundational reform to date to continue the successful implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations, including:

- Better managing the pace of change within the mental health and wellbeing system to find the preferred balance
- Recognising that some reforms are dependent on the implementation and maturation of other recommendations and should be progressed at a later date
- Importance of cultural change as the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022* is implemented
- The need to attract, grow and retain a qualified workforce
- Continuing to embrace lived and living experience throughout the system, including in leadership
- Priorities identified by the community and sector.

Implementation status of all recommendations as at 30 June 2024 is provided in Table 1 attached separately.