

# Community Advisory Committee Roundtables



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## Jan Curry



The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a subcommittee of the Board of Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) composed of seven consumers and three members of the board. It provides advice and direction to assist the Board in carrying out its community engagement and participation responsibilities.

The CAC consults with community groups in discussion forums called Roundtables

# Roundtables



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## What are they?

Roundtables:

- Are regular forums hosted by the CAC that foster open discussion with community groups about issues affecting their oral health.
- Provide an overview of trends and global issues from the perspective of key community groups.
- Seek ways to make consumer-driven quality improvements to DHSV's services.

There have been three CAC Community Roundtables so far:

- *Oral Health Needs of Aboriginal People*
- *Oral Health Needs of Older Victorians*
- *How can DHSV's CAC best support the needs of Public Oral Health Agencies and their patients?*

## Benefits

- Roundtables empower the CAC to enquire about specific topics with experts and community sectors.
- Roundtables are instrumental in providing evidence to develop new programs and improve current services at DHSV.
- Roundtables build relationships and goodwill between DHSV and communities.

*"I thought it was productive, interesting and informative. I sincerely appreciated having been part of it"*

– Consumer Representative, 2009 Roundtable



# How do Roundtables Work?

1. A topic is chosen based on DHSV strategic directions and the need to enquire on a particular community: e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
2. A group of individuals representative of that community is invited to for roundtable discussion with the CAC
3. At the roundtable:
  - community members, CAC members and relevant DHSV members of staff are equally distributed at three tables
  - each table works on one aspect of the topic for 20 minutes
  - after 20 minutes, community members move to the following table to discuss their second topic and so on until all community members have contributed to all three topics
4. A preliminary report is written and sent back to participants for comment
5. Agreed actions are incorporated into the Community Participation Plan or other DHSV workplans for implementation

# Some Roundtable Outcomes



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## First roundtable:

### *Oral Health Needs Of Aboriginal People*

- Development of an Aboriginal Community Development Worker position
- Development of an Aboriginal Oral Health Reference Group



## Second roundtable:

### *Oral Health Needs of Older Victorians*

- Development of targeted oral health promotion tools for older Victorians and carers
- Dissemination of oral health advice in media targeted to seniors

## Third roundtable:

### *How can the CAC Best Support Public Oral Health Agencies and their Patients?*

In progress. Recommendations include:

- Building stronger relationships with Agency CACs to promote oral health to our shared communities.
- Supporting Agencies to promote oral health as an integral part of general health.

If you would like to know more about community participation at Dental Health Services Victoria, email [cac@dhsv.org.au](mailto:cac@dhsv.org.au).