



Victorian Allied Health Assistant Workforce Project Newsletter

Issue 3 | April 2022

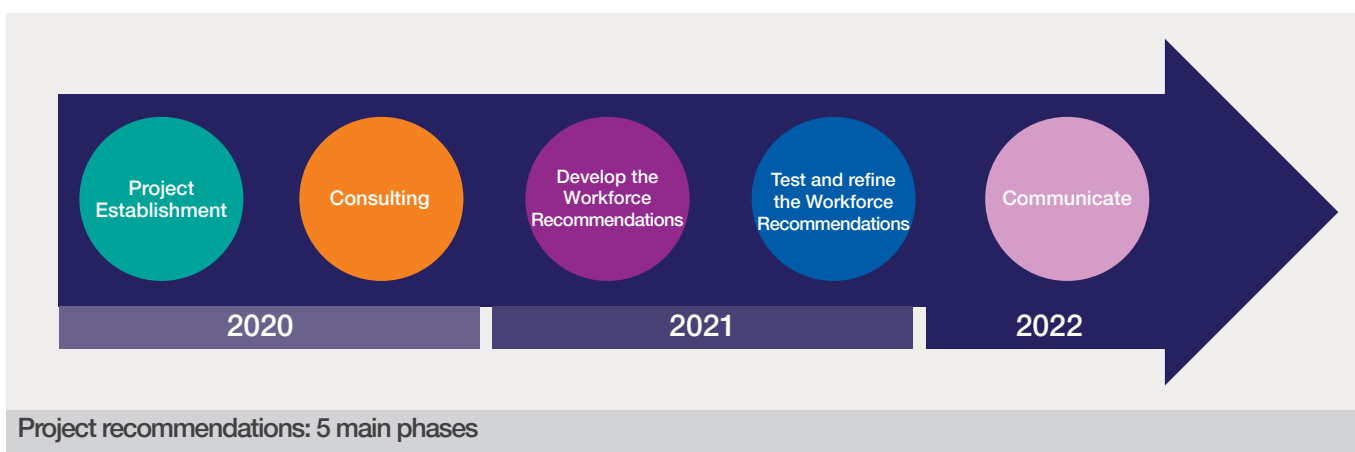


Welcome to the Victorian Allied Health Assistant Workforce Project Newsletter.

In this the third issue, we will focus on a number of developments in the Victorian Allied Health Assistant Workforce Project.

In this Issue:

1. What is the AHA workforce project?
2. What are the workforce recommendations?
3. Phase 4: *Development of the workforce recommendations and resources*
4. Thank you!



Project recommendations: 5 main phases

What is the AHA workforce project?

In October 2019 Monash Health was awarded the Victorian AHA Workforce Project based on its previous progressive work with the AHA workforce.

This three year project commenced in early 2020 with a project team of two Allied health professionals (AHPs) and one Allied health assistant (AHA) from Monash Health.

In our previous newsletters we provided you with an overview of:

- what the workforce project is
- who the workforce project is for
- an overview of our timeframe.

If you would like to read the first two project newsletters, please [click here for issue 1](#) and [here for issue 2](#).

We are pleased to let you know that despite the impacts of COVID-19 the project is on track and we have managed to connect with many of you across the state virtually.

We are currently moving from phase 4: *Test and refine the Workforce Recommendations* into phase 5: *Communicate*.

What are the workforce recommendations?

The Workforce Recommendations (the recommendations) outline how to promote the utilisation of the AHA workforce in Victorian health, disability and aged care sectors.

The recommendations cover pre-employment training, planning, governance and development of the AHA workforce.

These recommendations are designed to be used by:

- AHAs to raise the profile of the workforce and improve access to professional development and training

- AHPs to better define an AHP's roles and responsibilities in supervision and delegation
- Employers to ensure appropriate workforce planning and workplace governance and culture
- Registered training organisations (RTOs) to improve pre-employment training and potential further training opportunities
- Consumers as a tool to more clearly define the AHA role and set expectations of therapy and support delivery



Phase 4: Test and refine the workforce recommendations

Since our last newsletter the project team in collaboration with our expert Steering Committee have developed the final draft of Victorian Allied Health Assistant Workforce Recommendations. This has been developed using the key findings from Phase 2: Consultation and Phase 3: Develop the workforce recommendations and the recommendations have

been tested through Phase 4: Test and refine the workforce recommendations.

During this time we have spoken to many of you virtually or heard your thoughts via phone, email and in person and made significant changes to the recommendations based on your feedback.

Thank you!

In moving to phase 5: *Communicate* we are providing you with the final draft recommendations and implementation resources which will inform the final report to the Department of Health.

These recommendations and resources are available to AHAs, AHPs, Allied health leaders, consumers, carers and families via the following links.

- The final draft Victorian Allied Health Assistant Recommendations are available [here](#)
- The final draft implementation resources for you to test and use in your workplace are available [here](#)

Please note if you have previously downloaded some of our resources you may notice some minor differences in the number of recommendations. This is due to the evolving nature of the project.

Your feedback has been vital as we approach the final stages of this project to ensure the end deliverable meets your needs.

Thank you all.

Project team (from L-R): Lucy Whelan, Project Manager; Sharon McLean, AHA Project Officer; Jessica Huglin, AHP Project Officer.
Photo credit: Earthy Tones Film



Questions?

If you have any questions or comments about the Victorian AHA Workforce Plan project, the recommendations and the resources, or would like to know more about how to assist with further utilising AHAs, please direct them to:

✉ VictorianAHAWorkforcePlan@monashhealth.org