Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health Reporting
Health Data Portal

1 What is the Health Data Portal?
The Health Data Portal (the Portal) is a web based tool used by all Health Services funded by the Indigenous Australians’ Health Program (Health Services) to submit National Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs), Online Services Report (OSR) and Health Care Provider (HCP) number report data.

The Portal, hosted by the Department of Health’s (the Department) Enterprise Data Warehouse, provides a safe and secure tool for Health Services to submit nKPIs, OSR and HCP data.

2 Why does the Department of Health collect this data?
The nKPIs were first agreed by the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council in 2011. This collection is now one of the most advanced primary health care data sets available as it collects both process of care and outcome (health status) data from all Indigenous Australians’ Health Program Health Services. The nKPI collection is critical to measuring progress towards achieving the Government’s targets as expressed in the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework, the evaluation of the Indigenous Australians’ Health Program (IAHP) and more broadly in the Closing the Gap.

The OSR data collection assists the Department to:
- Identify key issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island primary Health Services;
- Identify gaps in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary Health Services provided;
- Identify the services delivered by the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) sector and other organisations funded under the IAHP; and
- Collect information on the continuous quality improvement (CQI) process of services funded under the Indigenous Australians’ Health Program.

3 What has been Health Services’ experience so far?
The recent January 2019 nKPI data collection resulted with 100% of reporting Health Services successfully submitting their data through Portal. This is a huge achievement given the fact that Health Services first went through an initial set up process and then used the Portal to report for the first time. This meant that they needed to:
- obtain AUSkeys for each Portal user
- get each user to register for the Portal
- have their User Administrator assign roles and folders to registered users
- In the case of Communicare and Best Practice, use a new clinical information system reporting tool
- get accustomed to the Portal workflow and responding to validation flags in the Portal.

4 What are the benefits of the Health Data Portal to Health Services?
The Indigenous reporting function of the Portal simplifies reporting processes so organisations can focus on the core business of delivering Health Services in communities. By simplifying and streamlining the reporting processes it shortens the time from submitting data to the Portal and then receiving reports back at an individual Health Service level.

The Portal securely hosts the most up-to-date version of an organisation’s data, including any changes that are agreed to in discussion with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Data in the Portal, along with a range of national and regional aggregated data, will be immediately available through an organisational QLIK Interactive Report. This will provide a set of modern analytical tools to rapidly and easily analyse the information in many different ways.

The data held in the Portal will be the final version approved by an organisation. When a health service decides to share data with, for example, NACCHO or a sector support organisation, they will see the final version. The opportunities presented by modern data analytic tools are significant. The Portal will make it much easier to gain insight from an organisation’s data by visualising and analysing it through a unique analytics QLIK Interactive Report.
Other benefits for Health Services include:

- user friendly application
- improved business processes and automating tasks
- reduced time lag between data submission and reporting
- increased confidence in the data that the Department collects
- greater adaptability and the ability to incorporate modern data analytic tools
- potential to align Indigenous Health reporting with the requirements of other primary health care programs across the Department in the future.

5 What’s Next?

Health Services will use the Portal for the first time to submit OSR data from 1 July 2019. The Portal’s OSR functionality will be based on recommendation from the AIHW review into the OSR data collection, and information gathered at the recent Portal Co-design Workshops. Key themes of the OSR Review recommendations include:

- Reduce duplication and streamline the reporting wherever possible
- Restructure and streamline the OSR into a small number of sections, with related items grouped together
- Pre-populate items from the previous year’s report wherever possible
- Build functionality to make it easier for services to input workforce full-time equivalent (FTE) information.

The recommendations from the OSR Review will be reflected in an improved OSR reporting experience over the next 18 months. Some OSR data items will remain unchanged from before the Review while others will be modified and a small number of new items will be added.

More information about the OSR Review is available on the AIHW website.

6 Information and User Support Resources

Keeping Health Services up to date on the Portal is a key priority for the Department, particularly as we continue to develop the Portal for OSR reporting from 1 July 2019. To achieve this all Health Services have access to a range of information and educational support resources including:

- **Monthly e-newsletter**: Health Services can subscribe to a monthly Portal e-newsletter which will enable everyone to stay informed and be involved in the development of the Portal. Currently the e-newsletter has over 1100 subscribers. If you are not already receiving the monthly e-newsletter you can subscribe by sending your email details to: Indigenousreporting@health.gov.au

7 For more information

If you require any further information about the Portal, please email

Indigenousreporting@health.gov.au

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