Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique #8 April 2023

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group (HS DAG) Communique keeps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services up to date about outcomes regarding the National Key Performance Indicator (nKPI) and Online Services Report (OSR) data collections. This Communique also provides information about the work of the group more broadly regarding Indigenous health data. This is the eighth HS DAG Communique and provides updates on the 6 April 2023 meeting. Previous Communiques can be found on the HS DAG website.

If you would like to submit an item for consideration by the HS DAG, please send your submission using a submission template to the HS DAG Secretariat at: hs.data.advisory.group@health.gov.au. All submissions will be reviewed for inclusion by the co-chairs for appropriateness.

Outcomes of 6 April 2023 meeting

New HS DAG Function to support the Governance of Indigenous Data (GID)
HS DAG members acknowledged the proposed committee structure, and phased approach to the development of the new GID group. The Department and members agreed that a co-design approach to group membership is required to ensure the right perspective is captured. The Committee agreed that a high-level strategic vision is required, involving the mapping of Government structures to determine where the new GID Group should be placed.

December 2022 nKPI Reporting Round Update

The most recent nKPI Health Data Portal reporting round saw 100% of services reporting on nKPIs. AIHW noted data quality issues for pilot indicator PI25 (STI testing). Results for this indicator varied significantly by CIS vendor, with vendors citing issues around data extraction and pathology labs not using standardised LOINC codes. The Group concluded that the data validity issues with the indicator are not an anomaly and acknowledged the continued work around data quality improvement initiatives.

The HS DAG endorsed the recommendation to keep PI25 in pilot status for a further two data collection periods.

Activity Work Plan / Performance Report move to Health Data Portal

The HS DAG noted that for the first time the Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) PHC Performance Report were being submitted online through the Health Data Portal. Submissions closed on **31 October 2022**.

The development team is also finalising the specifications for the first version of the Activity Work Plan and the associated Risk Plan to be reported through the Health Data Portal in June 2023. New features and refinement to the activity workplan will be made in the

HS DAG Communique #7 – November 2022

following year. Pre-population of data from the Activity Work Plan to the Performance Report will be done in the third year.

PI26 Ear Health Indicator

Consensus was reached to include all diagnoses, acute or chronic, in the numerator given the current rationale for the indicator. Further clarity is required around the indicator explanation which emphasises that tympanic membrane mobility has been assessed irrespective of the clinical assessment tool or test utilised, and further refinement is required around recording rules and indicator limitations.

The Group was happy to circulate the revised draft specification and sign it off out of session.

Health Data Portal - Updates and Project Improvements

In light of the publication of the core services component of the NACCHO Core Services and Outcomes Framework (CSOF), the group agreed there was value in establishing a small working group to evaluate changes to OSR data collection based on the principles and domains outlined in the NACCHO CSOF.

Indigenous Identifiers Update

The group noted the update on the Voluntary Indigenous Identifier (VII) request assessment framework and provided recommendations. The group noted the Health and Aged Care Indigenous Identifier (HACII), a method for collating Indigenous identification across multiple datasets held by the Department of Health and Aged Care and were updated on the technical workings and validation processes behind the identifier. The group recommended more clarity be provided around data validation processes in relation to the HACII data linkage methodology.

Optimising the use of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) data and accessibility to data

HS DAG members were informed of, and discussed, NACCHO's work to optimise the use of MBS in the ACCHS sector based on the available data. The Department is working with NACCHO to provide relevant aggregated data to support this work and a consent process for sharing of ACCHOs data with NACCHO and affiliates if a service chooses to do so.

My Health Record

HS DAG noted the information provided by the My Health Record (MHR) team of the background, research, Public Health program and current use of MHR. The group will seek further advice from the new GID Group once it is established.

Next meeting

The next HS DAG meeting is scheduled for September 2023.