



Australian Government

Department of Health
and Aged Care

National Clinical Quality Registry Program

Communique: March 2024

The Australian government is establishing a National Clinical Quality Registry Program (the Program). The purpose of the Program is to improve the quality of health care and ensure better health outcomes for Australian patients. It is designed to reflect the key priorities of the [National Clinical Quality Registry and Virtual Strategy 2020-2030](#) (the Strategy).

This is the second communique providing updates on the Program. Further details can be found on the Department's [website](#).

Upcoming funding opportunities

We intend to advertise Stream 1 in **March 2024**.

Stream 1 will provide operational funding support for a small number of additional high-priority, national CQRs. These will be selected via a competitive application process on AusTender.

How to apply

Please register your interest on [AusTender](#) and visit the 'Apply for funding' section on our [website](#).

New Strategy activities

The Program will fund selected activities that support continued implementation of the Strategy.

Three new projects are now underway:

Project 1: Consumer friendly resources

Increasing access and availability to patient friendly reports and data tools forms part of Strategy Pillar 1: Priority 5 and Strategy Pillar 5: Priority 20. The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Registry Centre are working with the Registry of Senior Australians, the Australian Corneal Graft Registry, and the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation Registry to create public facing resources designed specifically for consumers for release in June 2025. The project will also develop a series of guides to assist other registries implement similar processes. For more information, please contact Cindy Turner at registrycentre@sahmri.com.

This work builds upon the previously completed [My Hip, My Voice](#) initiative in the Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry and a booklet on the [benefits of CQRs](#) for consumers.

Project 2: Registry based trials

Increasing connectivity and integration between CQRs and clinical trials through registry-based trials forms part of Strategy Pillar 6: Priority 23. Monash University is collaborating with a wide range of CQR operators and researchers to compile a national best practice Guide on the use of national CQRs as a platform for clinical trials. The Guide will be published in December 2024. For more information, please contact Tsharni Zazryn at tsharni.zazryn@monash.edu.

Project 3: Expanding best practice in registry science

The SAHMRI Registry Centre is leading four projects due for completion by June 2025:

- *Increasing CQR sector capability in public reporting*

Increased public access to CQR data forms part of Strategy Pillar 5: Priority 20. The SAHMRI Registry Centre is working to improve public reporting activity across its member registries and translate these findings into a set of public-facing best practice resources. They are also investigating the feasibility of using a centralised national platform to host CQR public reporting in line with Strategy Pillar 1: Priority 5. Recommendations will be provided to the Department for further consideration.

- *Increasing CQR sector capability in data linkage*

Facilitating strategic data linkage projects between CQRs and administrative data forms part of Strategy Pillar 6: Priority 22. The SAHMRI Registry Centre is leveraging the experiences and lessons learnt from their multiple member registries, including the National Joint Replacement Registry, the Registry of Senior Australians, and the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplantation Registry, to develop public facing CQR data linkage guidance resources. They will also collaborate with other national registries with experience in data linkage processes.

- *Piloting a CQR Advisory Service*

Increasing communication and collaboration within the CQR sector forms part of Strategy Pillar 3: Priority 15. A part of the broader work on a CQR Communication and Collaboration Hub, the SAHMRI Registry Centre is piloting a CQR Advisory Service. This will enable Australian registries to seek support from, and leverage the expertise of, the SAHMRI Registry Centre. They will deliver a pilot evaluation report and recommendations to the Department for further consideration.

- *Increasing CQR value and impact case studies and analysis*

Assessing contributions of CQRs to improvements in clinical practice and patient outcomes forms part of Strategy Pillar 2: Priority 9 and Strategy Pillar 4: Priority 18. It will also inform the evaluation of the Strategy and the National CQR Program. The SAHMRI Registry Centre is compiling a suite of standard metrics and case studies that measure the value and impact of its member registries. These will be shared with the Department and included in registry reporting.

For more information, please contact Cindy Turner at registrycentre@sahmri.com.

Previous Strategy activities

Several Strategy projects that started before the establishment of the Program are now nearing completion:

Best practice PROMs reporting

Developing resources to help clinicians and stakeholders to better analyse, interpret and apply patient reported outcomes data forms part of Strategy Pillar 1: Priority 4. Monash University is finalising best practice approaches for reporting PROMs information and how it can be integrated into clinical reporting for maximum impact. Project Reports will be available in June 2024.

Best practice clinical reporting

Providing data back to sites and clinicians is a defining feature of a CQR and forms part of Strategy Pillar 2: Priority 9 and Priority 18. Monash University is developing best practice guidance on feedback reporting for clinicians and sites in ways that maximise safety and quality improvement, in line with the CQR Framework. Project Reports will be available in June 2024.

Development of Good CQR Training module

Streamlining processes for CQRs conducted within a research framework forms part of Strategy Pillar 3: Priority 11. Monash University is developing a 'Good CQR Training Module' as an alternative to the current Good Clinical Practice training for clinical trials. A published Guide is expected to be available from June 2024.

This work builds upon the previously completed Streamlining CQR Site Approval Pilot.

For more information, please contact med-clinicalregistries@monash.edu.

Communication and Collaboration Hub activities

A CQR Communication and Collaboration Hub was established in 2022. Its purpose is to support CQRs to work together and share best practice in line with Strategy Pillar 3: Priority 15. In addition to the best practice projects outlined above, current activities include:

- The Australian Clinical Registry Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)
- The Annual SAHMRI Registry Symposium
- Regular Registry *Special Interest Group* webinars and meetings
- Publishing a quarterly sector newsletter “The Benchmark”

Monash University also conducted the first Annual CQR Survey in 2023. It is designed to better understand current registry practice and maturity and identify emerging issues in the sector. Findings were first presented at the 2023 ASM and will be published in April 2024.

For more information, please contact acta@acta.au

Other News and events

- The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Innovative Trials Grant Opportunity is now open. It includes funding for projects that conduct registry-based randomised controlled trials. See [Grant Connect](#) for more information.
- The Australian Government’s [Digital Health Blueprint 2023 – 2033](#) and accompanying [Action Plan](#) have been published.

Contact

Please email the CQR Policy Inbox at cqrpolicy@health.gov.au.