Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique
May 2024

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 provides updates on the 30 May 2024 meeting. Previous Communiques can be found on the [HS DAG website](). Ms Chantal Jackson has replaced Ms Tammie Staltari as the department's First Nations Health Division (FNHD) HS DAG co-chair.

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 30 May 2024 meeting

Updates to the Health Data Portal

The department's Health Data Portal (HDP) has been used to collect national Key Performance Indicator (nKPI) and Online Services Report (OSR) data since 2019. Over the past year the Primary Health Care Activity Work Plan (PHC AWP) and Performance Report (PHC PR), and the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Performance Report (TIS PR) and Activity Work Plan (TIS AWP) have been moved into the Health Data Portal for data collection. Improvements to the existing collections have received positive feedback from health services. An offline submission form has been created for the PHC AWP which allows multiple users to edit the form, including those not registered in the HDP and reduces performance and saving issues in the HDP. In addition, previous reference text has been added to the PHC AWP, with plans to roll this feature out to the other narrative reports.

January 2024 nKPI reporting round

An update was provided to the HS DAG regarding the nKPI reporting period that opened on 1 January 2024 and was finalised on 26 March 2024. Reporting was mandatory and all health services required to report did so. Results from the June 2023 nKPI and OSR were released on 30 Jan 2024 as an update to the AIHW's online report. December 2023 nKPI data consisting of Excel data tables and associated data quality information will be released on 11 June 2024. Adult health checks have not yet returned to pre-COVID levels while child health checks (0-4) are at the same percentage seen in Dec 2019. The Group discussed how preventative health is currently being negatively affected by workforce shortages.

Updates to the National Key Performance (nKPI) Updates

The sexual health indicator (PI25) has been in pilot since July 2022. It has not moved out of pilot due to issues in the variability and completeness in coding used by pathology labs and a lack of pathology coding standardisation. LOINC and standardised pathology coding are part of the national infrastructure roadmap and there is a move towards coding standardisation, however this may be several years away. Following the June collection, the Group will confirm if PI25 is ready to come out of pilot and the department will inform health services.

The ear health indicator (PI26) will begin pilot in July 2024. Three of the four primary CIS vendors do not have an ear health module, so are relying on procedural codes or conditions.

Secondary Use of Data

NACCHO

NACCHO informed the Group of their planned and current uses of the nKPI and OSR data:

1. Inform the Core Services and Outcomes Framework
2. Provide input into advocacy, policy development and program management
3. Share data back to health services in a meaningful and value-added way

NACCHO plans to better communicate with the sector on what health services are consenting to when they share their data with NACCHO and how NACCHO is using their data.

Department of Health and Aged Care

Client numbers and episodes of care from the OSR data are currently used to determine the funding allocation for the Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) funded health services for comprehensive primary health care.

The Group discussed proposed improvements to the OSR data to allow for better secondary use of the OSR data in IAHP funding allocation. These improvements included:

- Enhancements to the HDP:
    - Validation flag for when a health service has manually updated any data
    - Narrative field added to the OSR which allows health services to provide contextual information for the data submitted.
- Proactive health service education and training around data entry practices (consistent entry and correct classification) and continuity of data collection (especially following staff turnover)
- The revision of OSR components to refine definitions and better align validation rules across vendors

5 yearly review of nKPI and OSR

A five-yearly review of the nKPIs and OSR (the Review) is expected to be undertaken in 2024-2025. The current proposed scope of the Review is as follows:

1. Assess the appropriateness, accuracy and effectiveness of the nKPI and OSR collections.
2. Assess the appropriateness of associated data platforms and infrastructure
3. Align the collections, platforms and infrastructure to Digital Health strategies and broader Departmental policy.

The department will be undertaking a series of consultations with key stakeholders to inform the scope of the Review.

Extension of the term of the HS DAG

The HS DAG discussed the future of the Group. The HS DAG Terms of Reference state that meetings will be held up to June 2024, when continuation of the Group will be assessed through a review process. The department is extending the HS DAG for approximately 18-24 months, and will review membership and the role of HS DAG following the OSR and nKPI Review.

Next meeting

The next HS DAG meeting is planned for October/November 2024.