National Clinical Quality Registry Program Communique: August 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 third communique providing updates on the Program. Further details can be found on the Department's website.

Current and upcoming funding opportunities

A new Strategy activity funding opportunity is now open on AusTender. Applications close on 9 September 2024.

A new Stream 2 grant opportunity is now open on Grant Connect. Applications close on 26 September 2024.

How to apply

Please visit the 'Apply for funding' section on our website.

You can apply for:

- Strategy activities via AusTender
- Stream 2 via Grant Connect.

Outcomes of previous funding opportunities

We are pleased to announce that two national CQRs were successful in the recent Stream 1 round:

- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Registry
- Australian Stroke Clinical Registry.

We intend to advertise a second Stream 1 opportunity in the first quarter of 2025.

New Strategy activities

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

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) recently released the Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024. ACSQHC also started work to:

- update the Prioritised list of clinical domains for clinical quality registry development
- modernise the Australian Register of Clinical Registries.

For more information, please contact CQR@safetyandquality.gov.au

Ongoing Strategy activities

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 translating registry outputs into consumer-friendly resources (due for release in June 2025). The team are holding regular meetings with the Consumer Group who are co-designing the resources – with prototypes developed. 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.

Registry based trials

Increasing use of CQR infrastructure to enable 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 develop a national best practice Guide on the use of national CQRs as a platform for clinical trials. A national meeting was held with 100 stakeholders on July 31st to inform the development of the Guide. Interviews have also been held with researchers who have been involved in running registry-based trials. The Guide will be published in December 2024. For more information, please contact Tsharni Zazryn at regtrialguide@monash.edu

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 has completed the member evaluation of best practice reporting against the proposed ACSQHC Framework, with the aim to identify gaps and develop recommendations. The SAHMRI Registry Centre team will present the findings and determine priorities with the Centre members. A formal report of the findings and recommendations will then 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. Approximately 44% (n=7) of SAHMRI Registry Centre members link to external datasets. Registries indicated cost and the lack of infrastructure to support data integration were the main preventive factors when wanting to perform data linkage. Recommended best practices for CQRs will be developed and provided to the Department.

- *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 is helping Australian registries and researchers to seek support from, and leverage the expertise of, the SAHMRI Registry Centre. To date, the types of enquiries and advice provided include considerations and requirements when establishing a new registry; requests for hosting of existing registries; collaboration and support for local health networks; expansion and infrastructure for existing registries; and data linkage.

- *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 supporting a series of Impact Workshops designed for registries. Registry participants will learn about the fundamentals of impact, identify indicators of registry success, methods for measuring the impact of their registries, and ways of demonstrating the value of the registry.

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

Guideline for PROMs reporting from CQRs to healthcare providers

Developing resources to help CQRs, clinicians and other providers to better analyse, interpret and utilise patient reported outcomes (PRO) data forms part of Strategy Pillar 1: Priority 4. Reporting of PROs to health services for quality improvement is a relatively new activity for many CQRs and health care

providers. Via an approach that included a literature review, interviews and focus groups, Monash University has developed a Guideline on how CQR PRO programs can be established, implemented, analysed, and presented to providers, for maximum clinical care impact. The Guideline will be available in September 2024.

Best practice clinical reporting for impact

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. However, there has been little research regarding how CQR reports to providers can be informed by existing audit and feedback evidence. Via a scoping review, survey, and interviews with CQRs, Monash University has developed a set of recommendations aligned to current best practice audit and feedback evidence. This includes recognition of many existing CQR processes that are evidence-based, as well as opportunities for improvement for CQRs. The project report will be available in September 2024.

Development of Good Clinical Quality Registry Practice Guide

Supporting efficient and effective processes for CQRs to engage, onboard, and train clinicians and healthcare providers forms part of Strategy Pillar 3: Priority 11. Monash University, with the support of the CQR Communication and Collaboration Hub, has developed a 'Good Clinical Quality Registry Practice Guide – A guide for hospital Principal Investigators (PIs) and staff who participate in Australian Clinical Quality Registries'. The Guide aims to provide introductory information for hospital PIs and their staff that participate in CQRs, in the same way that Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training has supported Clinical Trials. A published Guide is expected to be available from September 2024.

Communication and Collaboration Hub

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
- The Annual SAHMRI Registry Symposium
- Regular CQR 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 an academic journal.

For more information, please contact acta@acta.au

Contact

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