Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique October 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 29 October 2024 HS DAG meeting. Previous Communiques can be found on the HS DAG website.

If you would like to submit an item for consideration by 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 29 October 2024 meeting

Updates to the Health Data Portal

The department's Health Data Portal has been used to collect nKPI and OSR data since 2019. Over the past year the Tackling Indigenous Smoking performance report and activity work plan have been successfully moved into the Health Data Portal for data collection. An offline submission form was implemented for the Primary Health Care activity work plan and performance report. Approximately 75% of health services used the offline form functionality to download and work in a Word version of either report that can then be reuploaded to the Portal. Another addition allows health services to see previous responses when filling out these reports.

July 2024 nKPI and OSR reporting round

An update was provided to HS DAG regarding the nKPI and OSR reporting period that opened on 1 July 2024. The nKPI round was finalised on 8 October 2024 and the OSR round on 17 October 2024. Of the health services required to report nKPI and OSR data, 100% and 99.6% respectively submitted these reports. Results from the June 2024 nKPI and 2023–24 OSR were released on 29 Jan 2025 as an update to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare online report. HS DAG discussed difficulties in reporting workforce data, which will be investigated further.

Updates to the nKPIs

The sexual health indicator (PI25) has been in pilot since July 2022. HSDAG discussed the improvements in data quality for PI25 and confirmed that it will be moved out of pilot for the December 2024 reporting round.

The ear health indicator (PI26) had its first pilot data collection in July 2024 and the tiered reporting method yielded mixed results. Progress is being made with clinical information system vendors but there are still issues in measuring PI26. HS DAG discussed definitions of

appearance and movement. HS DAG decided to clarify but not change the definitions in Meteor and the vendor specifications, and to health services, to highlight that the indicator is largely collecting tympanometry.

The chronic disease management plans indicator (PI07) was discussed as the current *GP Management Plan* and *Team Care Arrangements* Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items will be replaced from 1 July 2025, with a single *GP Chronic Condition Management Plan*. HS DAG noted that changes will need to be made to this indicator in line with MBS changes.

Secondary Use of Data

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

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

- Clinical information systems vendors updated their mapping documents to outline which fields OSR and nKPI data is used.
- Validation flags and associated processes were updated to reduce reporting burden, whilst maintaining data quality.
- The Best Practice clinical information system introduced two new provider types that were not being counted in their OSR.

Training for health services around data management and data entry was identified as a need, but implementation requires further discussion.

Digital Health

HS DAG were informed of the priorities and initiatives under the National Digital Health Strategy and the department's Digital Health Blueprint.

Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Data Set (PMHC MDS)

HS DAG were informed of and discussed the changes to the consent guidance for the PMHC MDS and had the opportunity to meet with the PHMC MDS data custodian.

Next meeting

The next HS DAG meeting is planned for April/May 2025.