



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique May 2026

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 28 May 2026 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 28 May 2026 meeting

Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Data Set (PMHC MDS)

An update was provided to HS DAG on the PMHC MDS, including the transition to AIHW custodianship and the development of a data governance framework aligned with Indigenous data governance principles. Advice was sought on consultation and next steps and members advised that engagement should be embedded within existing sector governance structures.

January nKPI reporting round

An update was provided to HS DAG regarding the nKPI reporting period that opened on 1 January 2026. The nKPI round was finalised on 13 March 2026. Of the health services required to report nKPI, 100% submitted the report. Results from the June 2025 nKPI and OSR 2024-2025 collections were released on 22 January 2026 and results from the December 2025 nKPI collections were released on 21 May 2026 to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare online report.

Updates to the nKPIs

HS DAG noted the successful implementation of the revisions to the chronic disease management plans indicator (PI07) to align with MBS changes for a single *GP Chronic Condition Management Plan*. HS DAG agreed that no break in data series was required.

HS DAG noted that the agreed revisions to the kidney function test result (PI19) to align with the *Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Management in Primary Care Handbook 5th Edition* guidelines was successfully implemented, with minimal impact on reporting. Ongoing attention will be required for system functionality and interpretation.



HS DAG members agreed that ear health indicator (PI26) has improved sufficiently to transition out of pilot, with the need for clear caveats, continued monitoring and careful considerations for reporting. PI26 will move out of pilot for the July 2026 reporting round.

HS DAG members noted that smoking status indicators were inconsistent across clinical information systems in applying the 24-month assessment rule, resulting in variation in national reporting. The current inconsistencies across systems are not sustainable and a nationally consistent approach was required to improve the reliability and usability of the data. Members agreed to adopt a consistent approach to smoking status reporting across all clinical information systems, with a preference for using the most recent recorded smoking status for smoking status recorded (PI09) and smoking status (PI10). Members also agreed to align smoking status if females who give birth (PI11) with enforcement of the timing rule to maintain best practice in pregnancy.

Five yearly nKPI and OSR review

HS DAG provided input into the five yearly nKPI and OSR review proposed directions and recommendations. HS DAG members reaffirmed that nKPIs are appropriate for system-level monitoring and benchmarking and agreed that OSR remains an important dataset but requires refinement to improve usability and reduce burden. HS DAG members also supported continued investment in the Health Data Portal and data infrastructure, with a focus on improving usability, data capability and alignment with future digital health systems. Members emphasised the importance of Indigenous data governance and sector-led capability development.

HS DAG term ending 30 June 2026

The current term of the HS DAG will conclude on 30 June 2026. The Department will undertake a review of HS DAG's membership and Terms of Reference, to be informed by the governance recommendations arising from the five yearly nKPI and OSR review.