

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique, 6 April 2020

The communique for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group (HS DAG) will ensure that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Services are kept informed of outcomes with regard to the National Key Performance Indicator (nKPI) and Online Services Report (OSR) data collections, and the work of the group more broadly across the Indigenous health data space. On 6 April 2020, the HS DAG met, via teleconference, to discuss the nKPI and OSR Implementation Roadmap, the nKPI Indicator Selection and Maintenance Framework, the nKPI December 2019 Reporting Data and future OSR development, and potential project impacts due to the COVID-19 situation.

nKPI and OSR Implementation Roadmap

In May 2018, the Department commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to review the OSR and nKPI collections to consider options for improving the quality, currency and strategic alignment of the data reported. In February 2020, the [*Review of the two national Indigenous specific primary health care datasets The Online Services Report and the national Key Performance Indicators*](#) was published on the AIHW website.

The Department also concurrently engaged KPMG to draw together all of the recommendations from a number of projects relating to the nKPI and OSR collections. This included over 140 recommendations from the following reports, the:

- Draft AIHW report on the OSR and nKPI review for the Department of Health, 2018;
- Data Quality Assessment Support Project (stage 1 and 2) 2018-19, KPMG;
- Data Validation Project, 2017, Doll Martin & Associates;
- nKPI Harmonisation Report 2017-18, Burnett & Associates Pty Ltd; and
- nKPI and OSR Review Statement of Requirement, 2018, Department of Health.

KPMG was also been engaged to develop a detailed roadmap for the implementation, including timeframes, of the synthesised list of recommendations (the Roadmap).

The 9 December 2019 HS DAG planning day, focused on the draft Roadmap and provided in principle endorsement of the Roadmap and recommendations relating to:

- Seeking approval from the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) to devolve authority to approve minor modifications to the nKPI set to the Department of Health, with AHMAC retaining oversight of any major modifications to existing indicators or additions or removal of indicators;
- finalising Terms of Reference (ToR) for HS DAG including a technical and clinical Working Group to sit under HS DAG;
- formation of HS DAG Working Group to focus on actioning the recommendations from AIHW review, relating to 22 out of the 24 existing nKPIs requiring minor modification so as to align with best practice clinical guidelines;
- development of a HS DAG communique to be distributed and published after each meeting to create information sharing with the sector and provide access to the work of the group. This was one of the recommendations from the AIHW review;

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- development of HS DAG submission template, to ensure the sector is able to engage with the work of HS DAG and for stakeholders to provide input to the next scheduled meeting agenda; and
- commissioning the AIHW to develop an nKPI Indicator Selection and Maintenance Framework (refer to nKPI Indicator Selection and Maintenance Framework section below).

At the 6 April 2020 meeting, the group endorsed the updated HS DAG ToR and HS DAG Submission Template, noting that these would be added to a new HS DAG webpage on the Department's website. The HS DAG noted progress against the Roadmap and the revised timeframes due to the current COVID-19 situation. This included a delay in seeking AHMAC endorsement of revised governance structure for the nKPIs due to suspension of all AHMAC committees until after 30 June 2020.

The Department will continue to progress with the formation of a HS DAG Working Group, while waiting for AHMAC committees to recommence their meeting schedules, to focus on the minor amendments to the indicators to ensure alignment with best practice clinical guidelines. It is hoped that some of these changes can be agreed upon and implemented in time for the 1 January 2021 nKPI collection, with the remaining being finalised in time for the 1 July 2021 collection period. The Working Group will meet via a series of two hour teleconferences, rather than a face to face workshop due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, with the first teleconference scheduled for 22 April 2020.

nKPI Indicator Selection and Maintenance Framework

As an outcome of the 9 December 2019 HS DAG planning day, the AIHW was tasked with developing an indicator selection and management framework (the Framework) for the maintenance and further development of the nKPIs based on the NICE Framework in use in the UK. The Framework was discussed and principally endorsed by the HSDAG at the 6 April 2020 meeting, the HS DAG Working Group will use this Framework to review the nKPIs. The AIHW will provide advice on the initial set of indicators for the Working Group to consider at their first series of teleconferences commencing 22 April 2020.

nKPI December 2019 Reporting Data and future OSR development

Data submissions for the December 2019 nKPI collection, are almost complete and AIHW expect to finalise the collection by the end of April 2020. Health service level reports will be made available in early May 2020.

While the bushfires of early 2020 affected a number of services, it did not prevent any service from submitting their data by the specified deadline.

All the AIHW nKPI validation rules have now been built into the HDP. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of exception reports issued by the AIHW (resubmission requests) and a much better reporting experience for health services.

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The second stage of the OSR will be finalised and available in the HDP in June 2020 (in time for 1 July 2020 OSR reporting). Stage 2 will include all of the AIHW OSR validation rules, information on service delivery sites, a downloadable spreadsheet containing previous years OSR workforce data (to assist with completing this information), and improvements to the way the form works.

OSR Stage 3 will be discussed at a HS DAG OSR Deep Dive workshop planned for 28 May 2020, as a two-hour teleconference, rather than a full day face to face workshop due to COVID-19, with subsequent meetings to follow as necessary.

In response to the COVID-19 situation, nKPI Reporting for the January to June 2020 reporting period (opening on 1 July 2020), and for the June to December 2020 reporting period (opening on 1 January 2020), will be strongly encouraged, but will not be mandatory. Similarly, the OSR reporting for 2019-20 (opening on 1 July 2020), will be strongly encouraged, but will not be mandatory. The mandatory condition, in the Indigenous Australian's Health Programme (IAHP) grant funding agreement, for the nKPI and OSR reporting for these periods will be waived

The next scheduled HS DAG meeting is 14 September 2020.