



Australian Government

Department of Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique #4

May 2021

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 also provides information about the work of the group more broadly regarding Indigenous health data. This is the third HS DAG Communique. The previous Communiques can be found [here](#).

On 23 March 2021, the HS DAG met via teleconference as non-essential travel is discouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HS DAG welcomes contributions from all health services and stakeholders, including clinical information system (CIS) software vendors, through a submission process. 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 23 March 2021 meeting

New national Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs)

The February 2020 AIHW [review of the nKPI and OSR collections](#) recommended that consideration be given to developing 4 new indicators, one each for eye health, sexual health, ear and hearing health, and mental health/social and emotional wellbeing. Following on from initial discussions at the 11 December 2020 HS DAG meeting regarding 3 potential new indicators – for eye health, sexual health, and ear health – the HS DAG further discussed the potential development of an eye health indicator as well as a mental health indicator at the 23 March 2021 meeting. Discussion included consideration of a process that could be adopted for the development of any new indicator and how to consult with the Indigenous health sector on the proposed indicators.

The HS DAG agreed that the Clinical and Technical Working Group be reconvened to provide recommendations regarding the 4 potential new indicators. The Working Group will consider the feasibility of developing each of the potential indicators and provide recommendations regarding definitions and specifications. Consultation with the sector will be held before this matter returns to the HS DAG for final endorsement.

nKPI and OSR Implementation Roadmap update

An update was provided to the HS DAG regarding the nKPI and OSR Implementation Roadmap. The Roadmap was developed in late 2019 to improve the quality, currency and strategic alignment of data reported by all services that are funded under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP).

Out of the 34 recommendations in the Roadmap, 17 are now complete, 14 are in progress and 3 have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of recommendations is available on the Department's [nKPI and OSR Implementation Roadmap webpage](#).

The HS DAG was also advised that the draft *OSR and nKPI for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Data Framework* was soon to be available on the Department's consultation hub. The draft framework document and associated questionnaire are available for comment for a period of 6 weeks from 3 May 2021 to 14 June 2021 online at: [OSR and NKPI for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Data Framework - Australian Government Department of Health - Citizen Space](#).

nKPI reporting round update

An update was provided to the HS DAG regarding the nKPI reporting period that opened on 1 January 2021 and was finalised in mid-March. In recognition of the impact of COVID-19, this was a voluntary reporting round. However, over 92% of health services completed their reporting and the reporting period was closed without the need for an extension. This highlights the value health services place on reporting nKPIs and is an indication of the reduced reporting burden that has been achieved.

Online Services Report - Stage 3 of implementation into the Health Data Portal (HDP)

Development work for Stage 3 of the OSR has been completed with additional questions and functions ready for reporting from 1 July 2021.

One of the key changes is the availability of an uploadable version of the workforce Excel spreadsheet. For the 1 July 2020 reporting period, organisations were able to download their previous OSR workforce data and use this as a starting point to update their workforce information. Updated information had to be manually entered into the HDP. The new functionality means that the updated spreadsheet can be uploaded to the HDP and the workforce questions will be automatically pre-populated, reducing the need for manual data entry. This addresses feedback received that workforce data was the most laborious part of OSR reporting.

Clinical and Technical Working Group for the HS DAG

At the HS DAG Working Group's ninth meeting, held on 11 December 2020, members agreed recommendations for modification to nKPIs PI12 and PI21. These modifications were endorsed by the HS DAG out of session in February 2021 as follows:

PI12 – Body Mass Index (expand age range to include 18-24 year olds; expand to report all weight categories)

PI21 – Absolute CVD risk levels (expand age range to include 30-34 year olds; expand the 'High' risk category to 'High/Ever High'; add two new risk categories – 'Known cardiovascular disease' and 'Unknown/not calculated').

It is anticipated that these modifications will be ready for the nKPI reporting round that opens on 1 January 2022. Details on all of these changes and implications for reporting organisations will be included in upcoming editions of the [Health Data Portal e-Newsletter](#). The next HS DAG meeting is scheduled for 30 July 2021.