

**The National System
for Monitoring Diabetes
in Australia**

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The National System for Monitoring Diabetes in Australia

Tracy Dixon and Kathryn Webbie

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Preface

The National System for Monitoring Diabetes in Australia report describes the aims, scope and processes for monitoring diabetes in Australia. It provides a firm foundation for monitoring diabetes into the future.

The diabetes monitoring system in Australia has developed over the last decade. A number of key committees have been instrumental in this development, including the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Diabetes (MACOD), the National Diabetes Register Management Committee, and more recently the National Diabetes Strategies Group (NDSG) and the National Diabetes Data Working Group (NDDWG). The Chairs and members of these committees have played an active role in developing the monitoring system for diabetes in Australia.

The AIHW, with strong support from the former Director Dr Richard Madden, has played a key role in the development of this monitoring system as the home for the National Centre for Monitoring Diabetes and the National Diabetes Register. The Monitoring Centre and the Register have been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and that support is gratefully acknowledged.

The monitoring system has already enabled the publication of a number of diabetes monitoring reports, such as *Diabetes: Australian Facts 2002*. The AIHW also manages the National Diabetes Register as well as holding de-identified data on all users of the National Diabetes Services Scheme. These datasets will allow sophisticated analysis by AIHW and other health researchers of the characteristics and outcomes of people with diabetes.

We are now in a position to build on this firm foundation for monitoring diabetes in Australia. I commend this report on the monitoring system to you, and anticipate that we can continue to work together to ensure that diabetes monitoring provides the firm basis needed to guide policy and research into the future.

Dr Ching Choi
Acting Director

January 2006

