

Rural, regional and remote health

Information framework and indicators

Version 1b

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RURAL HEALTH SERIES

Number 6

Rural, regional and remote health

Information framework and indicators

Version 1b

November 2005

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

AIHW cat. no. PHE 69

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This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Rural Health Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Information Services and Publishing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web site (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>).

ISSN 1448-9775

ISBN 1 74024 510 5

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2005. Rural, regional and remote health – information framework and indicators – Version 1b. AIHW cat. no. PHE 69. Canberra: AIHW (Rural Health Series no. 6).

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Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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Acknowledgments

This report has been commissioned by the Rural Health and Palliative Care Branch (RH&PCB) in the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The development of the original framework was guided by the members of the Rural Health Information Advisory Committee (RHIAC), as well as others acknowledged in Version 1 of the framework (AIHW 2003).

This document was developed, updated and written by Andrew Phillips. The work was conducted under the editorial guidance of Glenice Taylor and Ken Tallis.

Abbreviations

A&E	Accident and Emergency (Department)
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACCMIS	Aged and Community Care Management Information System
ACIR	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (HIC)
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AMS	Aboriginal Medical Service
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographic Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
ATSIHWIU	ATSI Health and Welfare Information Unit (ABS & AIHW)
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health
BMI	body mass index
CACP	Community Aged Care Package
CATI	Computer-assisted Telephone Interview (survey)
CD	Census Collectors District
CDEP	Community Development Employment Program
CDNA	Communicable Diseases Network, Australia
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSDA	Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement
DALE	disability-adjusted life expectancy
DALY	disability-adjusted life years
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Technology
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DRG	diagnostic related group
DSRU	Dental Statistics Research Unit (AIHW)
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EACH	Extended Aged Care at Home
FaCS	Family and Community Services (Australian Government Department of)
FTE	full-time equivalent
GIS	Geographic Information System
GISCA	National Key Centre for the Social Applications of GIS
GP	general practitioner

HACC	Home and Community Care
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
ICD9	International Classification of Diseases (9th Revision)
ICD10	International Classification of Diseases (10th Revision)
ICU	intensive care unit
MBS	Medical Benefits Schedule/Scheme
NCATSIS	National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (ABS)
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHPF	National Health Performance Framework
NHS	National Health Survey
NHTP	nursing home type patient
NNDSS	National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
NOHSC	National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit (AIHW)
OATSIH	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (DoHA)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ORH	Office of Rural Health (DoHA)
OT	occupational therapist
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PIP	Practice Incentive Payment
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RFDS	Royal Flying Doctor Service
RHIAC	Rural Health Information Advisory Committee
RRMA	Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas classification
RRSNC	Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre (ABS)
SEIFA	Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas
SIHC	Survey of Income and Housing Costs
SLA	statistical local area
STI	sexually transmitted infection
SWPE	Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent
WHO	World Health Organization
YLL	years of life lost

Introduction

This framework updates the Rural Health Information Framework – Version 1 (AIHW 2003).

In 2003, the first version of the Rural Health Information Framework was published by AIHW. That work was commissioned by the then Office of Rural Health (ORH) in the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), as a framework describing rural health information and a set of indicators against which to report on rural health.

To guide the process, the Rural Health Information Advisory Committee (RHIAC) was established. It comprised representatives from a range of organisations (including ORH) with an interest and expertise in rural health issues and information. RHIAC provided advice on:

- the development of the framework;
- the selection of possible indicators to provide representation across a range of dimensions within the framework; and
- the documentation for each indicator (though this also involved consultation with subject area).

The resulting framework was modelled on the National Health Performance Framework (NHPC 2001) and its purpose was to:

- develop a formal understanding of the types of information that are important for understanding rural health;
- review the usefulness of available data collections towards this understanding, so laying the foundations for an ability to report in a systematic way on rural health issues; and
- assist in identifying gaps in the data that prevent effective reporting of rural health issues.

Following the release of the original framework report, work commenced on populating the indicators to provide a systematic and comprehensive description of health in regional and remote Australia. While collecting and analysing the data for *Rural, Regional and Remote Health: Indicators of Health* (AIHW 2005), a number of challenges and data issues were identified.

Accordingly, this report updates Version 1 of the framework, capitalising on the experience gained while reporting against the indicators. The structure of the framework has not been altered and new indicators have not been added, but issues such as data availability and statistical methods have been updated, and practical advice is offered for those who contemplate reporting against the indicators (see page 182).