

Chapter 5

Work group reports

Statistical groups

This chapter provides information about activities undertaken during 2009–10 by each of the AIHW's statistical groups:

- Economics and Health Services 55
- Health 64
- Housing and Homelessness 76
- Information and Statistics 85
- Social and Indigenous 94

During the year the AIHW had a unit-based structure under each of these groups (see Figure 5 on page 9). Each unit was to achieve planned outputs specified in the AIHW Work Plan 2009–10, which was approved by the AIHW Board in June 2009. The reports for each unit that follow include information on the status of each planned output as well as other activities and responsibilities.

This chapter also includes information about the activities of AIHW collaborating units:

- Collaborating units 106

Corporate groups

Information about the activities of the Business Group and the Governance and Communications Group is interspersed throughout the other chapters of this annual report.

During the year there were some changes to these two groups, as follows:

- the Business Group took responsibility for the former Data and Information Technology Unit, which was split into two new units—IT Services and ICT Operations
- the Information Services and Publishing Unit and the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit were transferred from the Business Group to the Governance and Communications Group
- the Executive Unit became part of the Governance and Communications Group
- new units were created in the Governance and Communications Group. They are the Information Governance Unit and the Online Communications Unit.

The Governance and Communications Group provides secretariat services to the AIHW Board and a number of intergovernmental committees that oversee the performance reporting and information environment for key health and welfare sectors. It manages information governance, including data access, ethics and privacy. It also undertakes the strategic management of internal and external relationships and communications, including the media, conferences, the AIHW website and publishing.

Economics and Health Services Group

Group head

Ms Jenny Hargreaves

What we do

The Economics and Health Services Group provides statistical leadership, develops and compiles data, undertakes analyses and disseminates policy-relevant statistical information about the financial resources used in health and welfare, and about key health services. The group's scope is health and welfare economics (health expenditure, welfare expenditure, health system expenditures on disease and injury, and medical indemnity), and health services (hospitals, mental health services, other health services, and the quality and safety of health care).

Units in this group

- Expenditure and Economics
- Health Care Safety and Quality
- Health Performance Indicators
- Hospitals
- Mental Health Services

Expenditure and Economics Unit

Unit heads

Mr Richard Juckes (since February 2010)

Mr John Goss (to February 2010)

What we do

The Expenditure and Economics Unit develops, collates and reports information on expenditure for the provision of health and welfare services. Expenditure is analysed by disease, by state, by provider of services and by who funds it, for different age and sex groups, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and in comparison with other countries. The unit also undertakes other economic analysis work relevant to health and welfare, and provides input into the development and maintenance of statistical frameworks used to support the expenditure estimates it produces.

Due to changed priorities and resource constraints experienced during the 2009–10 financial year, elements of the redevelopment of

the health and aged care expenditure database were postponed to 2010–11.

Objectives

- Make expenditure data more accessible, more relevant to policy and more timely. In particular, provide expenditure data to support the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations' performance indicator reporting process.
- Undertake the redevelopment of the health and aged care expenditure database to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the collation, processing, editing and output of expenditure data.
- Improve the methodology used for estimating expenditure statistics, in particular for Indigenous and welfare expenditure.
- Achieve a transfer of expenditure and economics knowledge and expertise from long-term staff to new staff. This risk management approach aims to avoid future knowledge gaps and therefore contain risks in meeting timelines for core and externally funded projects.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Health expenditure Australia 2007–08</i>	Achieved
Produce health expenditure data cubes	Achieved
Produce estimates for inclusion in the OECD's international health and social expenditure databases	Achieved <i>Only partial data was provided for the social expenditure database, while the welfare expenditure collection is being reviewed/revised</i>
Publish <i>Public health expenditure in Australia, 2007–08</i>	Achieved
Publish a report on public health expenditure in Australia for 2008–09	Work in progress <i>To be published in late 2010</i>
Publish <i>Expenditure on health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2006–07</i>	Achieved
Publish a report to support expenditure on health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, analysed by remoteness and disease, for 2006–07	Work in progress <i>To be published in late 2010</i>

Additional projects

- Undertook work, in collaboration with the states and territories and other stakeholders, to develop specifications for expenditure performance indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement and to improve the timeliness of reporting of the indicators
- Contributed to national data and information infrastructure, such as through provision of assistance and advice on the development of data and collection systems, to facilitate the reporting of comprehensive expenditure data that are comparable across jurisdictions
- Provided technical expertise on the development of the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Expenditure Framework and data for inclusion under the framework
- Contributed to international data and information infrastructure development, including participation in the data development and reporting work of the WHO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Worked with stakeholders to review the scope, data sources and outputs for the AIHW's work on collating and reporting expenditure on welfare
- Provided support for the Asia-Pacific National Health Accounts Development project (a project financed by the Asian Development Bank)
- Contributed to the Health Financing Policy Reform in Asia-Pacific project by producing a classifications schema
- Published *Funding sources for admitted patients in Australian hospitals, 2005–06*
- Finalised and published *Health system expenditure on disease and injury in Australia, 2004–05*

- Undertook an analysis of hospital expenditures by state and by Indigenous status for the Commonwealth Grants Commission
- Drafted a report analysing health expenditure in Australia by remoteness for publication in late 2010

Committees

- Health Expenditure Advisory Committee
Technical Advisory Group: Chair and secretariat
- Public Health Expenditure Technical Advisory Group: Secretariat for and member of this advisory group chaired by the Queensland Department of Health
- Indigenous Health Expenditure Technical Advisory Group: Joint chair (with Ms Elizabeth Clout, Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), DoHA) and secretariat
- Indigenous Expenditure Framework Steering Committee: Member of this committee established through the Productivity Commission

Data collections managed

- Health expenditure database
- Public health expenditure database
- Welfare expenditure database
- Indigenous health expenditure database
- Disease expenditure database

Health Care Safety and Quality Unit

Unit heads

Ms Cheryl Harkins (from March 2010)

Ms Sally Bullock (acting January to March 2010)

Dr Earl Dudley (acting to December 2009)

What we do

The Health Care Safety and Quality Unit develops, compiles and analyses data on the safety and quality of Australia's health care services. Major focuses are medical indemnity information, and developing specifications and data for the National Healthcare Agreement performance indicators on adverse events in hospitals, hospital re-admissions and potentially avoidable deaths. In addition, the unit works in partnership with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to improve the quality and availability

of national information on health care safety and quality, and with the OECD's Health Care Quality Indicators project.

Objectives

- Continue to develop medical indemnity information, and work to develop and implement the National Healthcare Agreement performance indicators
- Strengthen involvement in the OECD's Health Care Quality Indicators project, helping to ensure that the AIHW's work is not only relevant to policies in Australia but also internationally
- Explore the use of data cubes for the provision of medical indemnity data
- Work with stakeholders to ensure that the unit provides and presents information in the most timely and user-friendly way, including using web-based communication and presentation of information

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise contribution to and coordinate a chapter of <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Prepare health care quality indicators for an OECD 'Health at a glance 2010' report	Not achieved <i>Not funded</i>
Collate and provide data for three National Healthcare Agreement hospital-based performance indicators	Achieved
Publish a report on public sector medical indemnity 2008–09	Work in progress <i>The delayed completion of 2007–08 report delayed this report. To be published late 2010.</i>
Publish a summary report on public and private sector medical indemnity claims in Australia for 2007–08	Work in progress <i>The delayed completion of the 2006–07 report delayed this report. To be published late 2010.</i>
Produce guidelines for the analysis and interpretation of administrative data to describe the quality of health services	Work in progress <i>Awaiting data required for analysis</i>

Additional projects

- Finalised publication of *Public and private sector medical indemnity claims in Australia 2006–07: a summary*
- Supplied 3 years of data to states and territories for 14 national core hospital-based outcome indicators
- Introduced more extensive data validation processes for the 2008–09 Medical Indemnity

National Collection—this resulted in some delay to publications

- Provided a report on an Australian evaluation of the OECD's patient safety indicators, and an information model and framework for safety and quality data sets and standards to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Continued work on an inventory of health care safety and quality data sources

Committees

- *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteraemia Working Group: Chair of and secretariat for this subcommittee of the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee (NHISSC)
- Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations Working Group: Secretariat for and member

of this NHISSC working group, chaired by Dr Chris Baggoley (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care)

- Adverse Events in Hospitals Working Group: Chair of and secretariat for this NHISSC subcommittee
- Medical Indemnity Data Working Group: Secretariat for and member of this NHISSC subcommittee, chaired by Ms Milena Canil (Victorian Department of Human Services)
- Medical Indemnity National Collection Coordinating Committee: Secretariat for and member of this committee, chaired by Mr Paul Currall (DoHA)

Data collections managed

- Medical Indemnity National Collection

Health Performance Indicators Unit

Unit head

Ms Louise York

What we do

The Health Performance Indicators Unit develops, compiles and analyses data relevant to the performance monitoring of Australia's health care system. The unit's major focus is on coordinating the development and delivery of high-quality performance indicators under the National Healthcare Agreement, in consultation with national data committees. The unit also works with stakeholders to develop new national data collections required for national health performance reporting.

Objectives

- Work closely with the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council to further develop the indicators associated with the new National Healthcare Agreement and to help in meeting the national reporting requirements for the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations
- Coordinate the provision of performance reporting material under the National Healthcare Agreement from the AIHW and other relevant agencies to central agencies to agreed deadlines
- Enhance the availability and timeliness of health-related information by participating in the AIHW's work to capitalise on the new information environment as it relates to healthcare performance indicators

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Supply nine National Healthcare Agreement performance indicators and associated data quality statements to the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision	Achieved
Draft a report on welfare indicators	Not achieved <i>Insufficient staff resources</i>

Additional projects

- Undertook work to develop a new non-admitted patient national minimum data set, required to support reform objectives outlined in the National Partnership Agreement for Hospital and Health Workforce Reform
- Coordinated the program of developing new data collections, data sets and standards required for reporting performance indicators under the National Healthcare Agreement
- Coordinated the supply of performance indicators under the National Healthcare Agreement and associated data quality statements to the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

- Provided support across the full range of issues associated with the first cycle of performance indicators under the National Healthcare Agreement
- Worked with all stakeholders to facilitate the continuous improvement of data sources and reporting processes required for the first cycle of COAG performance reporting

Committees

- National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee: Support to the AIHW member, the AIHW Director

Hospitals Unit

Unit head

Mr George Bodilsen

What we do

The Hospitals Unit develops and collates data and produces reports from the AIHW's national hospitals databases, in consultation with national stakeholders. Key aims of the unit are to produce the annual report on Australian hospital statistics and accompanying internet-based electronic data resources, improve the quality and usefulness of Australia's hospitals data, and progress appropriate ways in which the data can be analysed and disseminated to inform community discussion and decision making.

Objectives

- Develop processes to support earlier receipt, preparation and validation of hospital data to enable reporting of National Healthcare Agreement indicators
- Develop indicators and related data for the National Healthcare Agreement
- Report on the National Healthcare Agreement indicators
- Continue to liaise with stakeholders to ensure the ongoing development and policy relevance of Australian hospital statistics and other products

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Australian hospital statistics 2008–09</i>	Achieved
Publish Indigenous identification audit report	Achieved
Respond to ad hoc data requests from within the AIHW	Achieved
Provide data and advice on the State of Our Public Hospitals/Australian hospital statistics comparison project	Achieved
Provide data and advice for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision's <i>Report on Government Services 2010</i>	Achieved
Provide a service to answer ad hoc data requests from people and organisations outside the AIHW	Achieved

Additional projects

- Published the *Australia's hospitals 2008–09 at a glance* companion report
- Provided data to the Productivity Commission to support a research report on the relative performance of public and private hospitals
- Supported the internal use of all hospitals-related databases

Committees

- Australian Hospital Statistics Advisory Committee: Chair of and secretariat for this AIHW committee

Data collections managed

- National Hospital Morbidity Database
- National Public Hospital Establishments Database
- National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collections (Removals and Census)
- National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database
- National Outpatient Care Database

Mental Health Services Unit

Unit head

Mr Gary Hanson

What we do

The Mental Health Services Unit compiles, develops and reports on the national mental health services databases. The unit also reports on a range of mental health-related health and community services in Australia. The unit provides leadership in the development and refinement of mental health services data in Australia, including the mental health performance indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement.

Objectives

- Continue to work closely with the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council to enhance the usefulness of the mental health information products that support the National Mental Health Information Priorities
- More broadly, improve the usefulness and relevance of the unit's work toward the objectives of the National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006–11 agreed to by COAG in 2006
- Keep under review the content, presentation and relevance of the annual series of reports on mental health services in Australia, in collaboration with DoHA and the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee
- Develop and report on mental health-related performance indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish a bulletin on community mental health care by socioeconomic status	Work in progress <i>To be published in late 2010</i>
Publish 'Mental health services in Australia 2007–08' and associated data cubes	Work in progress <i>Report to be published in August 2010 and data cubes in late 2010</i>

Additional projects

- Finalised a report on national palliative care performance indicators that gives the results of the 2008 performance indicator data collection (to be published in July 2010)
- Completed the scoping of a potential collection of data on mental health services delivered by non-government organisations
- Developed data cubes for the Community Mental Health Services National Minimum Data Set
- Developed data cubes for Residential Mental Health Care National Minimum Data Set
- Conducted a 'proof of concept' trial of the draft Mental Health Interventions Classification with ACT Health

Committees

- National Minimum Data Set Subcommittee: Chair of and secretariat for this subcommittee of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee
- Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee: Member of this subcommittee of the Mental Health Standing Subcommittee; the Information Strategy Subcommittee is chaired by Dr Aaron Groves (Queensland Health)
- National Mental Health Performance Subcommittee: Member of this subcommittee of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee; the Performance Subcommittee is chaired by Ms Ruth Catchpoole (Queensland Health)

Data collections managed

- Admitted Patient Mental Health Care National Minimum Data Set database
- Mental Health Establishments National Minimum Data Set database
- Community Mental Health Care National Minimum Data Set database
- Residential Mental Health Care National Minimum Data Set database
- Palliative Care Performance Indicators data collection

Health Group

Group heads

Ms Lynelle Moon (acting since March 2010)

Ms Susan Killion (to March 2010)

What we do

The Health Group develops and maintains national data to support monitoring and reporting on the health of Australians. This includes monitoring the determinants of health, health status and diseases, and related quality of life. The group reports on the health of populations, rural health, veterans' health, alcohol and other drugs use, and chronic disease monitoring, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, kidney disease, arthritis and asthma. It also reports on related health services such as cancer screening, primary care, and alcohol and other drug treatment services. It carries the primary responsibility for producing the flagship publication *Australia's health* and coordinates the AIHW's international work for the OECD and the WHO.

Units in this group

- Cancer and Screening
- Cardiovascular, Diabetes and Kidney
- Drug Surveys and Services
- Musculoskeletal Diseases
- Population Health
- Respiratory Conditions and Primary Care

During the year there were some changes to the Health Group:

- the former Respiratory and Musculoskeletal Diseases Unit became two units in October 2009
- the former Health Registers and Cancer Monitoring Unit changed its name to Cancer and Screening Unit following the transfer of data linkage functions related to the National Death Index to the new Data Linkage Unit in July 2009.

Cancer and Screening Unit

Unit heads

Ms Christine Sturrock

Ms Melissa Goodwin (acting January 2010 and March 2010)

What we do

The Cancer and Screening Unit monitors, investigates and reports on cancer incidence, mortality, survival and prevalence as well as population-based cancer screening indicators. This includes maintaining the Australian Cancer Database as part of the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House in collaboration with the Australasian Association of Cancer Registries. The unit also undertakes record linkage with the

Australian Cancer Database for health research approved by the AIHW Ethics Committee. In addition, the unit is responsible for developing a new National Centre for Monitoring Cancer.

Objectives

- Develop the National Centre for Monitoring Cancer
- Produce comprehensive and timely national cancer statistics
- Prepare timely national, state and territory performance indicators for the national screening programs for breast, cervical and bowel cancer

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–1

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish an overview report on cancer in Australia for 2010	Work in progress To be published in 2010–11
Publish updated Australian Cancer Incidence 1982–2006 data cubes	Achieved
Publish edition 5 of Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality 'books' (spreadsheets)	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Breast cancer in Australia: an overview, 2009</i>	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Ovarian cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010</i>	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Risk of invasive breast cancer in women diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ in Australia between 1995 and 2005</i>	Achieved
Contribute to a report on the health and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Achieved
Publish <i>Cervical screening in Australia 2007–08</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>National Bowel Cancer Screening Program: annual monitoring report 2009</i>	Achieved Further data is to be published as a supplement in August 2010
Provide biannual operational reports to the program managers of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program	Achieved
Provide biannual reports on implementing the 2005 guidelines for the management of cervical cancer abnormalities to the Safety Monitoring Committee	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2005–2006</i>	Achieved

Additional projects

- Produced cancer incidence projections suitable for use in radiotherapy service planning being undertaken by DoHA
- Published *Gynaecological cancer projections 2010–2015*
- Assessed data needs for the new National Neonatal Hearing Screening Program
- Undertook development and management work on the Australian Cancer Database
- Reviewed cervical cancer screening monitoring indicators
- Undertook ad hoc analyses of cancer data
- Drafted the 'BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2006–2007 and 2007–2008', and associated supplementary data tables (to be published in August 2010)

Committees

- Cancer Monitoring Advisory Group: Secretariat for this AIHW committee, chaired by Professor Jim Bishop (DoHA), that advises the National Centre for Monitoring Cancer
- Australasian Association of Cancer Registries Executive Committee: Secretariat for this committee chaired by Professor Alison Venn (Menzies Research Institute Tasmania)

Data collections managed

- Australian Cancer Database (formerly known as the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House)
- BreastScreen Australia Database
- National Cervical Cancer Screening Database
- National Bowel Cancer Screening Database

Risk of invasive breast cancer

Women diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) are at significantly increased risk of being diagnosed with a subsequent invasive breast cancer.

The report *Risk of invasive breast cancer in women diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ in Australia between 1995 and 2005* provides the first Australian data on the risk of invasive breast cancer following a diagnosis of DCIS.

DCIS is a non-invasive tumour arising from, and contained entirely within, a milk duct of the breast. About 1,600 women are diagnosed with DCIS each year in Australia. The study found that women diagnosed with DCIS were about four times more likely to develop a subsequent invasive breast cancer than other women of similar age.

'This risk was significantly higher for women who were under 40 years of age when they were diagnosed with DCIS', said Christine Sturrock, Head of the AIHW's Cancer and Screening Unit.

'These women were about 20 times more likely than other Australian women in this age range to develop a subsequent invasive breast cancer. The good news is that these women generally had relatively small invasive breast cancers and these cancers were less likely to have spread to the lymph nodes. The practice of placing these women under closer medical surveillance may be responsible for earlier diagnosis of subsequent invasive breast cancers.'

This study is an important step forward in our understanding of the risk of invasive breast cancer in Australian women following a diagnosis of DCIS.



Cardiovascular, Diabetes and Kidney Unit

Unit heads

Ms Susana Senes

Ms Anne Broadbent (acting since March 2010)

Ms Lynelle Moon (to March 2010)

What we do

The Cardiovascular, Diabetes and Kidney Unit undertakes national monitoring of the three diseases, including analysis of incidence and prevalence, mortality, morbidity, functioning and disability, risk factors, and associated health services. This work is carried out through the National Centre for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease, the National Centre for Monitoring Diabetes (including the National Diabetes Register) and the National Centre for Monitoring Chronic Kidney Disease.

Objectives

- Continue to provide high-quality, novel, policy-relevant analysis of existing cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney data, including on prevention and health inequalities where possible
- Continue to develop a broader range of products to better meet the varied needs of the AIHW's audiences, including short summaries of publications, better use of the AIHW's website and presentations at relevant conferences
- Build on the solid base of the National Diabetes Register to extend its scope and use
- Continue to work with linked administrative data sets wherever possible to demonstrate the added value and usefulness of the information obtained through analysing the data in this way



Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease prevention

Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease account for around a quarter of the burden of disease in Australia, and just under two-thirds of all deaths.

Given the impact of these diseases on the lives of so many Australians, and the nation's healthcare system, the AIHW commissioned the report *Prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease: targeting risk factors*.

The three diseases often occur together, and have common risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight and obesity, and physical inactivity.

'Inactivity, overweight and obesity, and high cholesterol affect over 50% of adults, while smoking and high blood pressure affect 20–35% of adults. Indigenous Australians and people from lower socioeconomic groups are particularly affected,' said Lynelle Moon, Head of the AIHW's Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Kidney Unit.

The report draws on a range of data sources to cover three aspects of prevention: the prevalence of risk factors, preventive initiatives aimed at the whole population, and services targeted at individuals.

Prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease: targeting risk factors is the first report to use a systematic approach to monitor preventive measures in Australia. The report focuses on the modifiable risk factors of these three closely related conditions, to improve prevention and reduce suffering and mortality.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to and coordinate a chapter for <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease: targeting risk factors</i>	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Cardiovascular medicines and primary health care: a regional analysis</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Cardiovascular disease mortality: trends at different ages</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Women and heart disease: cardiovascular profile of women in Australia</i> and <i>Women and heart disease: summary</i>	Achieved
Draft a report on heart failure	Not achieved <i>Delayed until 2010–11 by funder</i>
Begin drafting the report 'Cardiovascular disease: Australian facts', including trends in cardiovascular hospitalisations	Achieved
Data development, compilation, analysis and reporting of the COAG performance indicator on chronic kidney disease	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Health care expenditure on chronic kidney disease in Australia 2004–05</i>	Achieved
Draft 'Chronic kidney disease hospitalisations in Australia 2000–01 to 2007–08'	Achieved <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Draft a report on projections in the number of treated end-stage kidney disease patients	Achieved
Publish <i>Insulin-treated diabetes in Australia 2000–2007</i>	Achieved
Draft an analytical report on National Diabetes Register data	Work in progress
Finalise and publish an analysis of mortality among registrants on the National Diabetes Register	Work in progress <i>Delayed due to data access issues</i>
Finalise and publish <i>Diabetes prevalence in Australia: an assessment of national data sources</i>	Achieved
Finalise and publish a report on diabetes indicators as web pages for each indicator	Achieved <i>Publication pending website changes</i>
Publish a report on outcomes of diabetes in pregnancy	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Draft a report on the impact of diabetes on quality of life and productivity	Work in progress

Additional projects

- Drafted a report on the incidence of Type 1 diabetes in Australian children 2000–2008 (to be published in 2010–11)
- Undertook work to create a master file for gestational diabetes from National Diabetes Services Scheme data (work in progress; now expanded to include all diabetes types)

Committees

- Cardiovascular Disease Monitoring Advisory Committee: Secretariat for this National Centre for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease committee, chaired by Professor Andrew Tonkin (Monash University)

- National Chronic Kidney Disease Monitoring Advisory Committee: Secretariat for this National Centre for Monitoring Chronic Kidney Disease advisory committee, chaired by Associate Professor Tim Mathew (Kidney Health Australia)
- National Diabetes Data Working Group: Secretariat for this National Centre for Monitoring Diabetes committee, chaired by Associate Professor Jeff Flack (University of New South Wales)

Data collections managed

- National Diabetes Register

Drug Surveys and Services Unit

Unit head

Ms Amber Jefferson

What we do

The Drug Surveys and Services Unit integrates two streams of work within the AIHW to provide better information on the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs, and on alcohol and other drug treatment provided in Australia. The unit manages and produces reports from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey, conducted every 3 years, and develops data and information and produces reports on publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services and opioid pharmacotherapy programs. The unit compiles

reports about tobacco, alcohol and other drug statistics and information. The unit also provides strategic support to the Dental Statistics Research Unit, an AIHW collaborating unit based at Adelaide University.

Objectives

- Provide national leadership in statistics and information related to drug surveys and treatment services
- Develop collaborative relationships with key stakeholders involved in the National Drug Strategy
- Develop strategies for better integration and consistency between drug use and drug treatment data collections

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2007–08: report on the National Minimum Data Set</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2007–08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set</i>	Achieved
Publish national, state and territory bulletins using 2007–08 alcohol and other drug treatment services data	Achieved
Create online 2007–08 Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set data cubes	Achieved
Publish <i>Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set 2010–11: specifications and collection manual</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2009 report</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) 2010 collection: data guide</i>	Achieved
Prepare a report on statistics on drug use in Australia in 2010	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>

Additional projects

- Continued enhancement of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set data collection and the National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection
- Drafted a report on a review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (to be published in 2010–11)
- Drafted a report on methodological options for estimating the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (to be published in 2010–11)

Committees

- Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set Working Group: Secretariat for this working group chaired by Mr Kieron McGlone (NSW Department of Health)
- National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data Working Group: Secretariat for this working group chaired by Ms Anne Lawrence (NSW Department of Health)
- 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey Technical Advisory Group: Chair of and secretariat

Data collections managed

- Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set data collection
- National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection
- National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Musculoskeletal Diseases Unit

Unit head

Dr Kuldeep Bhatia

What we do

The Musculoskeletal Diseases Unit monitors and reports on the effects of arthritis, osteoporosis, back problems, and other bone and joint conditions on the health of Australians. Taking a multidisciplinary approach, the unit focuses on illness, pain, disability, medicine use, joint replacements, fractures, health care needs and services, physical therapy, expenditure and quality of life in the context of musculoskeletal health in Australia.

Objectives

- Be a reliable source of information on the epidemiology of musculoskeletal diseases and conditions, and on the health care needs of people with these conditions
- Develop comprehensive information on risk factors for and management of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis and minimal trauma fractures
- Monitor and report on arthritis and osteoporosis in Australia
- Develop the methodology and statistics for monitoring the use of medicines
- Generate health profiles of people with specific musculoskeletal diseases or conditions

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to and coordinate a chapter for <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish a report on the disparities in health care for people with arthritis and osteoporosis for 2004–05	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a fact sheet or bulletin on arthritis and osteoporosis for 2007–08	Not achieved <i>Removed from work plan by funder</i>
Publish a report on the use of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for rheumatoid arthritis	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on the use of bisphosphonates for osteoporosis	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on when musculoskeletal conditions and mental disorders occur together	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on the use of services by people with arthritis and osteoporosis for 2007–08	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Finalise and publish <i>Health expenditure for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, 2004–05</i>	Achieved
Develop and maintain web pages for the National Centre for Monitoring Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions	Achieved

Additional projects

- Finalised and published *Medication use for arthritis and osteoporosis* and *The problem of osteoporotic hip fracture in Australia*
- Drafted 'A snapshot of arthritis in Australia 2010' and 'A snapshot of osteoporosis in Australia 2010' (both to be published in 2010–11)
- Developed a person-level Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme database for arthritis
- Continued to build expertise in analysis and interpretation of medicine use data

- Supported the work of the National Centre for Monitoring Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions

Committees

- National Centre for Monitoring Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Steering Committee: Secretariat for this committee chaired by Professor Nick Bellamy

Population Health Unit

Unit head

Mr Mark Cooper-Stanbury

What we do

The Population Health Unit develops and reports information on the health of the Australian population and priority subpopulations, including health inequalities. The unit undertakes specific projects in the areas of rural health, environmental health and veterans' health, and hosts the National Centre for Monitoring Mandatory Folic Acid and Iodine Fortification. The unit also takes a population health approach to its work in monitoring chronic diseases and associated determinants of health, managing the National Mortality Database, providing official Australian data to international organisations (notably OECD and WHO), managing topic-specific population health surveys, and supporting the AIHW's use of demographic and survey data.

Objectives

- Help in the development of Australia's capacity to undertake national surveillance of chronic diseases and associated determinants
- Support the AIHW's work on health inequalities, and the health of specific populations
- Support the health-related statistics needs of the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Contribute to improved national understanding of significant rural health issues through monitoring, analysing and disseminating rural health data
- Contribute to improved national understanding of environmental health data sources with an emphasis on climate change and health
- Build on Australia's capacity to monitor the effects of the mandatory fortification of food with folic acid and iodine

A snapshot of men's health in regional and remote Australia

Drawing on several data sources, *A snapshot of men's health in regional and remote Australia* provides insight into the health of men in rural Australia compared with men in urban areas.

The report presents a unique perspective on a particular group of Australians. Men in rural Australia are potentially faced with distinct health issues because of their location, work and lifestyle. Notably, the report found that male death rates increase with remoteness.

Men in rural areas are more likely than their urban counterparts to experience chronic health conditions and risk factors. For example, they:

- are more likely to report daily smoking and risky drinking behaviour
- are less likely to possess an adequate level of health literacy
- have higher mortality rates from injury, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The report was launched by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon. Warren Snowden, MP.



Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Contribute to and coordinate chapters for <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Prepare General Record of Incidence of Mortality books for 2006 and 2007 years of registration (national) and year of death (state and territory) (set of Excel workbooks)	Achieved
Coordinate provision of Australian data to OECD and WHO: a data set for OECD Health Data 2010; support for other OECD projects; and data for WHO Country Health Information Profile	Achieved
Prepare a report on Australia's food and nutrition	Work in progress <i>To be published 2010–11</i>
Prepare a report on international comparisons of Australia's health	Work in progress <i>To be published 2010–11</i>
Finalise and publish <i>Risk factors and participation in work</i>	Achieved
Publish a bulletin on premature mortality from chronic disease.	Work in progress <i>To be published 2010–11</i>
Publish a bulletin on the comorbidity of mental health and chronic disease	Work in progress <i>To be published 2010–11</i>
Publish a bulletin on children's physical activity patterns	Work in progress <i>Pending revised data provision, to be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish baseline report on mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification	Work in progress <i>Drafted and, pending external approval, to be published in 2010–11</i>
Finalise and publish <i>A guide to Australian eye health data</i> , 2nd edition	Achieved
Publish <i>A snapshot of men's health in regional and remote Australia</i>	Achieved
Draft specific reports on chronic diseases and associated determinants, including an indicators data report	Achieved
Publish a report on electoral roll-matching suitability project	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>

Additional projects

- Developed data concepts, elements and reporting relating to specified COAG indicators (2-year project)
- Maintained the Chronic Disease Indicators (web-based) database
- Continued the conceptual development of composite indicators in the set of indicators for prevention of chronic disease
- Provided statistical support to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, particularly in support of AIHW Ethics Committee applications by researchers for the use of Vietnam Veterans Nominal Roll data
- Prepared a draft report on an audit of environmental data sources related to health and evidence demonstrating the effects of environmental factors on health
- Developed the inaugural Australian National Infant Feeding Survey

- Prepared a draft publication on summary results from the Adult Vaccination Survey and the Pandemic Vaccination Survey
- Provided support as the AIHW's contact and custodian for the ABS's confidentialised unit record files

Committees

- Population Health Information Development Group: Co-chair of and secretariat for this subcommittee of the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee; the subcommittee is co-chaired by Mr Jim Hyde (Victorian Department of Health)
- Australian National Infant Feeding Survey Technical Advisory Group: Chair of and secretariat for this AIHW advisory group

- Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group: Member of this interest group chaired by Dr James Harrison (Flinders University)
- ABS Mortality Statistics Advisory Group: Member
- Dietary Modelling Stakeholder Advisory Group: Member of this advisory group of Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- DrinkWise Australia Research Advisory Group: Member

Data collections managed

- National Mortality Database
- AIHW Population Database
- Adult Vaccination surveys
- Pandemic Vaccination Survey
- selected veterans and defence health databases and nominal rolls

Respiratory Conditions and Primary Care Unit

Unit heads

Dr Adrian Webster
Dr Kuldeep Bhatia (to October 2009, Respiratory and Musculoskeletal Diseases Unit head)

What we do

The Respiratory Conditions and Primary Care Unit monitors and reports on asthma and linked respiratory diseases in Australia. In this task the unit works with the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring at the Woolcock Institute for Medical Research. The unit is also responsible for working towards improvements in the monitoring of primary care service delivery in Australia.

This includes managing and contributing to the collection of primary health-care data. A key part of these activities is collaborating with the Australian General Practice Statistics and Classifications Centre at The University of Sydney in running the Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) survey.

Objectives

- Conduct national monitoring of asthma and linked respiratory diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Develop data and strategies for monitoring primary health care in Australia
- Implement a project to develop a primary care national minimum data set

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to and coordinate a chapter for <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Finalise and publish <i>Monitoring the impact of air pollution on asthma in Australia: a methods paper</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Asthma among older people in Australia</i>	Achieved
Publish 'Asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases in primary health-care settings'	Achieved <i>Not published. Converted to a discussion paper by agreement with the funder</i>
Develop recommendations for the development of a primary health care national minimum data set	Achieved

Additional projects

- Finalised and published *Asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory diseases in Australia*
- Undertook analytical work for respiratory diseases other than asthma, including influenza and pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allergic rhinitis and cystic fibrosis
- Participated in the creation of a business case for the collection of Indigenous status on pathology request forms as part of work on Closing the Data Gaps

- Provided support for the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring and the Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre

Committees

- National Asthma and Linked Chronic Respiratory Conditions Monitoring Advisory Group: Secretariat for this AIHW committee chaired by Professor Carol Armour (The University of Sydney)

Data collections managed

- BEACH survey data, as data custodian

Housing and Homelessness Group

Group heads

Mr Geoff Neideck (from August 2009)

Ms Alison Verhoeven (to August 2009)

What we do

The Housing and Homelessness Group is responsible for producing statistics, analysis and information on housing assistance to Australians across all tenures (that is, ownership, rental and crisis accommodation), homelessness, and services to people experiencing homelessness and the need for assistance.

Units and project in this group

- Homelessness Data Collection
- Housing
- Housing and Homelessness Analytics and Research
- Housing and Homelessness Integration
- Specialist Homelessness Services Project

During the year the group changed its name from Housing and Disability Group and several functional changes were made, as follows:

- the Housing and Homelessness Integration Unit was added in December 2009
- the Specialist Homelessness Services Project was added in February 2010
- the Functioning and Disability Unit was transferred to the Information and Statistics Group in February 2010.

Homelessness Data Collection Unit

Unit heads

Ms Alana Shaw (acting from February 2010)
Mr Nick Mann (acting from mid-July 2009 to February 2010)
Mr Stephen Davison (to mid-July 2009)

What we do

The Homelessness Data Collection Unit collects data on government-funded specialist homelessness services and the Victorian Homelessness Data Collection.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program ceased in 2008. However, the unit continues to collect data on existing government-funded specialist homelessness services and new services that began with the advent of the National Affordable Housing Agreement. The unit:

- collects, processes and reports on data on a similar basis to the former Supported Accommodation Assistance Program services collection pending the introduction of a new national homelessness data system in 2011, and for the Victorian Homelessness Data Collection
- sets standards for the collection of homelessness data
- works closely with other agencies in conducting the above-mentioned collections.

Objectives

- Develop administrative data to reflect changes in the funding arrangements and scope of the new collection
- Make a smooth transition from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program data collection to the interim data collection arrangements to ensure the continued provision of relevant data for jurisdictions and their agencies
- Undertake development activities to simplify and make more efficient the delivery of data by agencies and the AIHW's ability to meaningfully interpret the results
- Ensure that the collections meet the needs of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations for any interim performance indicators and provide assistance in the development of such indicators
- Issue a national report against any relevant Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations interim performance indicators, including those on homelessness and crisis or transitional housing
- Continue work on the Victorian Homelessness Data Collection project
- Help in the development of procedures to transition data collection arrangements from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program collection to the new national homelessness data system
- Investigate opportunities to contribute to the development of national standards and protocols for the collection of data on homelessness, and investigate emerging information needs, including research and information dissemination

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise a contribution to <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Deliver presentations and papers at relevant conferences	Achieved
Produce half-yearly (July to December) and annual agency data reports for each agency contributing to national homelessness services collection arrangements, including Victorian Homelessness Data Collection agencies	Achieved
Produce confidentialised unit record files of homelessness services collections for each state and territory	Achieved
Report against first-cycle COAG performance indicators using national homelessness services collections	Achieved

Additional projects

- Published *Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2008–09 Australia* and eight associated state and territory supplementary tables reports
- Published *Problem gambling among those seeking homelessness services*

Committees

- Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group: Observer at this Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Penny Gillespie (Queensland Department of Communities)

- Housing Working Group: Observer at this working group of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision; the working group is chaired by Mr John O'Connell (Queensland Department of Treasury)

Data collections managed

- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Administrative Collection
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Client Collection
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Demand for Accommodation Collection
- Victorian Homelessness Data Collection

Problem gambling among those seeking homelessness services



A unique report released by the AIHW in November 2009 found that 2,462 Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) support periods provided to homeless clients during 2007–08 involved clients with a gambling problem. This was 1.2% of all support periods.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program in New South Wales had the highest proportion of SAAP clients with gambling-related issues (2.0) and Western Australia had the lowest proportion (0.3%).

Affected clients tended to be older and male. Indigenous Australians were less likely to have gambling-related problems—less than 1% of Indigenous clients had gambling problems compared with 1.5% of non-Indigenous clients.

The report's findings present a detailed look at a group of Australians whose needs are particularly complex and specific.

Housing Unit

Unit heads

Ms Kate Mallen (from September 2009)

Ms Tracie Ennis (to September 2009)

What we do

The Housing Unit works with state housing authorities and other state and territory representatives, FaHCSIA and the not-for-profit sector to produce national housing information. In collaboration with these stakeholders,

it develops national data standards, identifies data items for national collection, collects and analyses national housing data, makes data available for policy development and research, and produces national reports on housing and housing assistance. The unit provides data to the Productivity Commission on performance indicators within the framework for the Report on Government Services, as well as those under the National Affordable Housing Agreement, supporting the COAG objectives for transparent and standardised performance information for the public.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise contribution to <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Publish reports under the 2008–09 National Reporting Framework for Indigenous housing:	
<i>Indigenous community housing 2008–09</i>	Achieved
<i>State owned and managed Indigenous housing 2008–09</i>	Achieved
Publish a report using 2008–09 data on 2008–09 Indigenous access to mainstream housing assistance.	Work in progress <i>To be integrated into a report on Indigenous access to housing and homelessness services, to be published 2010–11</i>
Publish a bulletin on children and young people in community housing	Work in progress <i>To be published 2010–11</i>
Publish a bulletin using community housing data for 2008–09	Work in progress <i>Preliminary analysis completed</i>
Publish <i>Public rental housing 2008–09</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Community housing 2008–09</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Crisis Accommodation Program 2008–09</i> and release data tables	Achieved
Performance data for two National Affordable Housing Agreement performance indicators and associated quality statements for the 2010 COAG Reform Council report	Achieved
Provide performance data for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision's <i>Report on government services 2010</i>	Achieved
Give a presentation at the National Housing Conference	Achieved
Give a presentation at the Social Policy Research Centre Conference	Not achieved <i>Abstract not accepted</i>

Objectives

- Work with the Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group to develop performance indicators and output measures that meet the reporting needs of housing and community services ministers
- Build on the AIHW's positive relationship with key governance groups such as the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group and the Report on Government Services secretariat, to ensure the unit collects, reports and provides data that meet the needs of these stakeholders
- Initiate discussion with relevant high-level stakeholders on the need for strategic national strategies for housing and homelessness information. These will be based on information needs for reporting mandated under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations as well as data for policy development, policy analysis and research
- Build on the data holdings of the National Housing Assistance Data Repository, to ensure it meets the needs of new national reporting requirements and is better able to support a wider range of policy-relevant analysis

Additional projects

- Finalised and published *Indigenous housing needs 2009: a multi-measure needs model* and *Indigenous housing indicators 2007–08*

Committees

- Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group: Member of this Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Penny Gillespie (Queensland Department of Communities)
- Housing Working Group: Member of this working group of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision; the working group is chaired by Mr John O'Connell (Queensland Department of Treasury)

Data collections managed

- Public Rental Housing data
- State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing data
- Community Housing data
- Indigenous Community Housing data
- Crisis Accommodation Program data

Housing and Homelessness Analytics and Research Unit

The unit was formerly known as the Housing and Homelessness Coordination Unit.

Unit head

Dr Edmond Hsu

What we do

The Housing and Homelessness Analytics and Research Unit works closely with other housing and homelessness units at the AIHW to develop, measure and report on the COAG performance indicators. Other priorities include developing housing and homelessness data, and carrying out research and evaluation to inform policies for housing and homelessness services. To achieve these goals the unit liaises with a range of external stakeholders including the Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group, the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group, the ABS, Centrelink, FaHCSIA and various research institutes.

Objectives

- Form partnerships with policy makers, other statistical agencies and researchers to ensure housing and homelessness information is relevant and timely
- Help the housing and homelessness units at the AIHW to produce high-quality performance data to measure progress against goals and targets set by the National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated partnership agreements
- Promote the development of national housing and homelessness minimum data sets, and contribute to data coordination and data linkage activities
- Explore ways of integrating mainstream service data with specialist homelessness service data in order to gain a clearer picture of homeless people's pathways through service systems
- Support the national housing and homelessness research strategy by building on existing data and research to ensure that homelessness intervention is evidence-based

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise contribution to <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Develop and deliver homelessness performance indicators to inform 2010 COAG Reform Council reporting	Achieved
Facilitate partnership between the AIHW and a consortium of four academic institutions to undertake homelessness research under the National Homelessness Partnership Agreement. The four academic institutions are Swinburne University of Technology, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Murdoch University and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling of the University of Canberra	Achieved
Prepare agenda papers for the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group and the Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group	Achieved
Present papers at key conferences	Not achieved <i>Resources transferred to other priority work</i>

Additional projects

- Contributed to a review of the methodology used to produce the ABS's publication *Counting the Homeless 2006*

Committees

- Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group: Member of this Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Penny Gillespie (Queensland Department of Communities)

Housing and Homelessness Integration Unit

Unit heads

Ms Moira Hewitt (from January 2010)

Mr Cid Riley (acting May–June 2010)

What we do

The Housing and Homelessness Integration Unit liaises with external stakeholders to further the AIHW's work on developing and reporting housing and homelessness data. External stakeholders include the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group, the Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group, the Homelessness Working Group, the Homelessness Data Project Board, the Homelessness Delivery Review Board, the ABS, the Productivity Commission and the COAG Reform Council.

The unit works closely with other housing and homelessness units at the AIHW to contribute to the development, measurement and reporting on the performance measures in the National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated partnership agreements as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. A key component of the work program is the development of data and metadata to support reporting, including the development of related national minimum data sets. The unit also develops reports across housing and homelessness that support the measurement of progress towards the targets set out in these agreements.

The unit collaborates with jurisdictions to develop and integrate housing and homelessness data collections, metadata standards, performance reporting requirements and the national performance reporting framework.

Objectives

- Form close partnerships with policy makers, other statistical agencies and researchers to ensure housing and homelessness information is relevant and timely
- Assist the housing and homelessness units at the AIHW to produce high-quality performance data to measure progress against goals and targets set by the National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated Partnership Agreements
- Promote the development of national housing and homelessness national minimum data sets, including making an appropriate contribution to data coordination and data linkage activities
- Explore innovative ideas to integrate mainstream service data with specialist homelessness service data in order to gain a clearer picture of the homeless pathways through service systems
- Support the national homelessness research strategy by assisting the Australian Government to build on existing data and research to ensure that homelessness intervention is evidence-based

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group agenda papers	Achieved
Deliver presentation (and papers) at key conferences in 2009–10	Not achieved <i>Focused on establishing new unit</i>

Additional projects

- Developed the client-based Specialist Homelessness Services National Minimum Data Set and began development of the related Specialist Homelessness Establishments National Minimum Data Set
- Liaised with Australian Government agencies (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Immigration and Citizenship; Department of Veterans’ Affairs; DoHA) to promote the development of homelessness identifiers in their data sets

Committees

- Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group: Member of this Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Penny Gillespie (Queensland Department of Communities)
- Homelessness Working Group: Observer at this Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Kate Gumley (FaHCSIA)
- Homelessness Data Project Board: Member of this Homelessness Working Group committee, chaired by Ms Julie Waylen (Western Australian Department for Child Protection)

Specialist Homelessness Services Project

Project heads

Ms Penny Siu (from February 2010)

Mr Sean Ackland (to February 2010)

What we do

The Specialist Homelessness Services Project works to improve the evidence base for homelessness issues and services to support the homeless by building a new homelessness data collection. The primary objective of this project is to provide a system that will allow the submission of specialist homelessness client data from service providers, the storage and administration of these data, and a flexible reporting system that will be able to provide reports that support the needs of jurisdictions and homelessness agencies.

The new specialist homelessness services collection will replace the existing Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Data Collection and provide a new client-based measure of homelessness services. The new collection will be the authoritative source of data on services directed specifically to support homeless people. As such it will be an important contributor to the evidence base for monitoring and evaluating homelessness and the effects of reforms in the homelessness sector.

The Specialist Homelessness Services Project will therefore be vital for policy design and evaluation, as well as service improvement and monitoring of specialist homelessness services in Australia. It will further extend the data and experience of the AIHW as the National Data Collection Agency.

Objectives

- Design and document new national data collections for homelessness
- Liaise with relevant AIHW and inter-jurisdictional committees to ensure the necessary agreements are in place to support the collections
- Begin work on building and implementing the collection in 2010
- Support and advise other AIHW housing and homelessness units on homelessness data requirements for the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, as well as advising on managing these requirements during the transition from existing homelessness collections

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

There were no planned outputs for 2009–10.

Committees

- Specialist Homelessness Services Project Board: Secretariat for this project board for the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection; the project board was chaired by the AIHW
- Specialist Homelessness Services User Group: Secretariat for this user group comprising homelessness sector representatives, chaired by the AIHW

Information and Statistics Group

Group heads

Ms Teresa Dickinson

Ms Melanie Taylor (acting at 30 June 2010)

What we do

The Information and Statistics Group is responsible for supporting the statistical excellence of the AIHW through metadata and information management services, data linkage, support and conduct of advanced statistical research and continual improvement of the statistical infrastructure including classifications and standards. It manages the statistical reuse of information from the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals as well as providing other information relating to the workforce in health and community services occupations and industries in Australia. The group also produces information related to functioning and disability in Australia from the relevant national minimum data sets that it manages, as well as from analysis of other data on functioning and disability.

Units in this group

- Data Linkage
- Functioning and Disability
- Labour Force
- Metadata Information Services – Information Environment
- Metadata Information Services – METeOR and Metadata

During the year the former Information and Strategy Group was renamed Information and Statistics Group, and a number of functional changes were made:

- the Data Linkage Unit was created from the former Community Services Integration and Justice Health Unit to coordinate and better focus the many data linkage activities being undertaken by the AIHW. The new unit took over responsibility for the National Death Index from the Cancer and Screening Unit, while responsibility for juvenile justice and prisoner health was transferred to the Child and Youth Welfare Unit
- the Functioning and Disability Unit and the Labour Force Unit were transferred to the group
- the former National Data Development and Standards Unit (Metadata Infrastructure Services Unit) was split into two units. Some responsibilities were transferred to the new Governance and Communications Group
- the former Data and Information Technology Unit was split into two units and both were transferred to the Business Group.

Data Linkage Unit

Unit head

Dr Phil Anderson

What we do

The Data Linkage Unit facilitates the development and analysis of person-centred (rather than program-centred) data in order to support whole-of-government and whole-of-life approaches to policy. The unit achieves this by investigating data linkage and analytical methods, by undertaking data linkage and analyses of linked data sets, and by providing leadership and assistance to analyses undertaken elsewhere within the AIHW, through close collaboration with subject matter staff. The unit is the main point of contact with the wider data linkage community. The unit also undertakes record linkage with the National Death Index, the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House and other data to support internal and external linkage-based research projects that have received AIHW Ethics Committee approval.

All data linkage takes place within the strict ethical and privacy arrangements determined by the AIHW's Director and Board.

Objectives

- Develop the AIHW's capacity to fill information gaps through the continued enhancement of data linkage and analytical methodologies
- Support the production of those Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations performance indicators that will be derived from linked data
- Enhance whole-of-government and life-transition views of Australians' health and welfare by undertaking and supporting analyses of linked data
- Increase confidence in and acceptance of data linkage by explaining its benefits and by publicising the AIHW's strong privacy protections
- Develop better ways of presenting key findings from linked data and integrating the findings with other statistical analyses in the AIHW's reports
- Enhance methods and systems to create the data sets required for the AIHW's expanded program of linkage-based statistical analysis and research

Pathways through aged care services

The aged care sector in Australia is very complex, with a wide range of services available to older people in need of assistance. The Pathways in Aged Care cohort study linked aged care assessment data for a cohort of 105,100 people with data sets showing deaths over 4 years and the use of five main aged care programs.

The *Pathways through aged care services: a first look* report presented the first findings from analyses of the pathways cohort, including common care pathways, the time to entry to permanent residential aged care and the time to death after the first assessment for use of aged care services. This report provided information useful for both policy planners and service providers.



Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Publish reports and papers on the pathways of older Australians (National Health and Medical Research Council grant):

a report introducing the Pathways in Aged Care project

Work in progress
To be published in 2010–11

Pathways through aged care services: a first look

Achieved

a report and a bulletin on *Dementia and the take-up of residential respite care*

Achieved

a paper on record linkage across multiple data sets using statistical linkage keys

Achieved

Incorporating HACC use into aged care pathways: a technical report for the PIAC project

Achieved

Report on data linkage methods used for hospital dementia services outcomes

Not achieved
Methods broadly described in previous reports

Contribute linkage-based statistical analyses to *Australia's health 2010* and other AIHW publications

Not achieved
Not required

Draft a report on the use of hospitals by people in residential aged care

Work in progress
To be published 2010–11

Report on the implementation of the linkage of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, child protection and juvenile justice data

Work in progress
To be published 2010–11

Additional projects

- Finalised contributions to the Ageing and Aged Care chapter and Children, Youth and Families chapter of *Australia's welfare 2009*
- Prepared a report comparing name-based linkage strategies with strategies that use statistical linkage keys (to be published in 2010–11)
- Undertook work to improve the quality of the National Death Index and achieved substantial processing efficiencies
- Undertook work to develop linkage-based COAG performance indicators

Committees

- Data Linkage Working Group: Member of this working group of the Health Policy Priorities Principal Committee; the working group was chaired by DoHA
- Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee Working Group: Member of this committee chaired by ABS

Data collections managed

- National Death Index

Functioning and Disability Unit

Unit heads

Mr Sean Ackland

Ms Tracy Dixon (from January 2010 to May 2010)

Ms Cathy Hales (to November 2009)

What we do

The Functioning and Disability Unit monitors trends in the prevalence of disability in Australia, and measures the need for and use of disability support services. The main focus of disability monitoring is the analysis and dissemination of information on levels of functioning, and types and levels of disability (including disability related to specific health conditions) in the Australian population. The main focus of the disability services monitoring is the collection and analysis of data on specialist disability services provided or funded under the National Disability Agreement,

including the development of data for the purpose of monitoring demand for specialist services. The unit strives to make information about disability and disability services accessible to a wide audience including government, disability service users and service providers, and the general public.

Data development in the area of functioning and disability is a significant area of activity for the unit. This work is done in consultation with the ABS, the Disability Policy and Research Working Group, the National Disability Information Management Group and their associated technical advisory groups, and other stakeholders. It involves the development, promotion and implementation of national and international data standards across the health and community services fields in Australia.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to chapters about disability and health in <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Disability support services 2007–08: national data on services provided under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement</i>	Achieved
Create online data cubes for the 2007–08 Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set service user data collection	Achieved
Publish <i>Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Program: report on the 2008–09 Minimum Data Set</i>	Achieved
Undertake analysis of disability data in the ABS National Health Survey and ABS Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing with the publication of bulletins on:	
the health status of Australians with disability	Work in progress Pending data availability, to be published in 2010–11
the use of health services among Australians with disability	Work in progress Pending data availability, to be published in 2010–11
Undertake predictive/discriminant analysis of disability service users with high support needs, with the publication of a bulletin on services and support for Australian children with disability	Work in progress Pending data availability, to be published in 2010–11

Objectives

- Support the information requirements of the National Disability Agreement, particularly in the areas of national performance indicators and data development under Priority 1: Better measurement of need
- Strengthen the capacity of the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set to meet the strategic needs of government
- Improve data definitions and data sources for measuring demand for disability services
- Build analytical capability to make greater and enhanced use of existing data on specialist disability services
- Provide leadership on national disability data
- Change the unit's products to better meet the information needs of government, disability service providers, people with disability and their carers, and the broader community

Additional projects

- Published *Disability in Australia: multiple disabilities and need for assistance*
- Undertook work to develop an Autism Spectrum Disorder Register
- Undertook the development of performance indicators and supplied data to support the National Disability Agreement
- Provided a technical advice report on projected disability and disability-free life expectancies between 2010 and 2040 to the Treasury
- Undertook initial planning and design work for a redeveloped Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (previously the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set)
- Provided advice for the ABS's 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers confidentialised unit record file design

Committees

- National Disability Data Network: Secretariat for this National Disability Information Management Group committee, chaired by Ms Alison Crisp (Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW)
- National Disability Information Management Group: Secretariat for this Disability Policy and Research Working Group committee, chaired by Mr Jim Moore (Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW)
- Disability Policy and Research Working Group: Observer at this working group of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Committee; the working group was chaired by Mr Jim Moore (Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW)
- Disability Services Working Group: Observer at this working group of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services; the working group was chaired by Mr Tony Bates (Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance)
- National Disability Strategy Development Officials Working Group Data Sub-group: Member of this committee chaired by Ms Helen Bedford (FaHCSIA)

Data collections managed

- Disability Services National Minimum Data Set collection
- Younger People in Residential Aged Care National Minimum Data Set collection

Labour Force Unit

Unit head

Mr David Braddock

What we do

The Labour Force Unit provides information on the workforce in health and community services occupations and industries in Australia, drawing on a range of AIHW and external data sources. A major focus is the collation of national data collections on the health labour forces, and the production of annual reports and online statistics based on them.

Objectives

- Ensure that future data collation and reporting work links to broader national infrastructure and information needs
- Implement new systems and tools for data from the first year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals, in consultation with stakeholders
- Ensure that the unit's outputs complement and contribute to the work of the Health Workforce Principal Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and Health Workforce Australia, including workforce planning projects and work to implement the COAG health workforce reforms

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Develop online data tables presenting medical and nursing time series data	Achieved
Provide data on health workforce performance indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement	Achieved
Publish <i>Medical labour force 2007</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Nursing and midwifery labour force 2007</i>	Achieved
Provide an ad hoc data request service	Achieved

Additional projects

- Finalised and published *Eye health labour force in Australia*
- Developed specifications for interim and ongoing health workforce performance indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement
- Finalised the Registered Health Professional Labour Force Data Set Specification and supported effective implementation by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Continued the preparation of a working paper on a comparison of medical workforce data sources (to be published in 2010–11)

Data collections managed

- Nursing Labour Force Data Collection
- Medical Labour Force Data Collection
- Occupational Labour Force Data Collection
- Pharmacy Labour Force Data Collection
- Physiotherapy Labour Force Data Collection
- Podiatry Labour Force Data Collection
- Psychology Labour Force Data Collection
- Optometry Labour Force Data Collection

Metadata Information Services – Information Environment Unit

Unit head

Mr Gordon Tomes

What we do

The Metadata Information Services – Information Environment Unit monitors changes in the national information environment for health, welfare, housing, disability and community services; liaises within the AIHW to disseminate information and coordinate responses and seeks to shape the emerging environment to ensure the continual improvement of statistical use of data to support better health and welfare outcomes. The unit also supports the AIHW Director in her role

as Head of the Australian Collaborating Centre for the WHO Family of International Classifications, provides advice on best practice for information management and leads the AIHW's engagement with cross-cutting e-health initiatives.

Objectives

- Play a leading role in developing a framework for the statistical uses of data generated in the e-health environment
- Establish a strong contract base for the work of the unit
- Undertake activities for the Australian Collaborating Centre for the WHO Family of International Classifications and improve the supporting governance arrangements

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Publish working papers on e-health issues:

governance framework

Work in progress

Subject to a review of portfolio functions and responsibilities

statistical use of e-discharge summary data

Work in progress

To be published in 2010–11

secondary use service framework

Work in progress

To be published in 2010–11

Additional projects

- Provided support to the Australian Collaborating Centre for the WHO Family of International Classifications – Australian Collaborating Centre, and through its Chair—the AIHW Director—to the WHO Family of International Classifications Network
- Advised on the implications of models for the Individual Healthcare Identifier, and for the reuse of data for statistical purposes, including issues associated with the use of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

Committees

- WHO Family of International Classifications Education Committee: Member of this committee of the WHO Family of International Classifications Network
- Clinical Terminology and Information Reference Group: Member of this National E-Health Transition Authority committee, chaired by Dr Michael Legg (Health Informatics Society of Australia)
- General Practice SNOMED Clinical Terminology Reference Set Support Group: Member of this National E-Health Transition Authority committee

- Australian Clinical Terminologies User Group:
Member of this National E-Health Transition
Authority committee

Data classifications managed

- Australian Medicines Terminology (for
internal use)
- SNOMED Clinical Terminology – Australian
Release (for internal use)
- The International Statistical Classification of
Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th
Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM)
(for internal use)

Metadata Information Services – METeOR and Metadata Unit

Unit head

Ms Melanie Taylor

What we do

The Metadata Information Services – METeOR and Metadata Unit aims to improve the comparability, consistency, relevance and availability of national health, community services, housing and homelessness information. The unit manages Australia’s national health and community services data definitions and standards, which provide the national infrastructure for the gathering and analysis of information in these areas. The unit also ensures that the AIHW and its many stakeholders have access to, and benefit from, world-leading data standard and metadata management technologies. In particular, the unit manages METeOR—a web-based data standard management system. This system enables the

online creation and dissemination of shared data standards that are the basis of consistent, comparable and linkable data collections.

Objectives

- Support ministerial committees by providing expert assessment of the metadata developed under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations
- Manage the metadata development and assessment work program on behalf of the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee
- Ensure accessibility of up-to-date national data standards for the health, housing and homelessness, and community services sectors
- Provide effective data standard and metadata management technologies that are responsive to changing user needs and are up to date with emerging trends
- Provide high-quality training, advice and support for users of METeOR technologies

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Publish ‘National health data dictionary version 15’	Achieved <i>To be published in August 2010</i>
Publish updates since versions 14.1 and 14.2 of the <i>National health data dictionary version 14</i> on the METeOR website	Achieved
Publish ‘National community services data dictionary version 6’	Achieved <i>To be published in August 2010</i>
Publish updates since version 5.1 and 5.2 of the <i>National community services data dictionary version 5</i> on the METeOR website	Achieved <i>An update since version 5.2 was not required in 2009–10 as no further change occurred</i>

Additional projects

- Provided expert assessment of metadata developed under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations for data elements, performance indicators and methods for creating subpopulation splits
- Developed the capability to manage performance indicators within METeOR, including the national indicator catalogue web interface
- Provided METeOR helpdesk service and training workshops for the large pool of users and stakeholders distributed across Australia

Social and Indigenous Group

Group head

Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman

What we do

The Social and Indigenous Group is responsible for producing statistics and carrying out analysis and reporting on health and welfare issues relating to children, youth and families, on ageing and aged care, and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The group is also responsible for producing statistics on juveniles in the juvenile justice system and on prisoners' health. The group leads the production of the biennial report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare.

The group contributes to the work of a number of national committees such as the National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officials Network, the National Community Services Information Management Group, the International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Steering Committee, the Social Inclusion Consultative Forum, the Early Childhood Data subgroup and the Australian Early Childhood Index Strategic Policy Committee.

Units in this group

- Ageing and Aged Care
- Child and Youth Welfare
- Children, Youth and Families
- Indigenous Community and Health Service Reporting
- Indigenous Data Gaps
- Indigenous Determinants and Outcomes

During the year the responsibilities of the former Community Services Integration and Justice Health Unit were transferred to the Data Linkage Unit in the Information and Statistics Group and to the Child and Youth Welfare Unit.

Ageing and Aged Care Unit

Unit heads

Ms Gail Brien (from September 2009)

Dr Peter Braun (acting until September 2009)

What we do

The Ageing and Aged Care Unit aims to inform community debate and public policy making in the areas of ageing and aged care through a variety of statistical reporting, research, evaluation and data development projects on the wellbeing, health and service use patterns of older Australians. The unit analyses and disseminates national information on aged care services, the informal care sector, and older people's health and social participation. The unit works closely with the Data Linkage Unit to analyse and report on the dynamics of the aged care system as a whole and its relationship with other key sectors (for example, acute care).

Objectives

- Contribute data and information that supports the Australian Government's pursuit of the goal of ageing well and ageing productively under the National Research Priority 'Promoting and maintaining good health'
- Engage with the policy agenda by ensuring that the unit's projects and reporting identify implications for policy development, service planning and delivery that will improve the quality of life for older people in Australia
- Develop better ways of presenting aged care statistics that more clearly identify key findings
- Build relationships with key stakeholders in government and non-government sectors that will increase the unit's appreciation of the policy and service issues that can be informed by statistical reporting

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise a chapter for <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i> and deliver a conference presentation	Achieved
Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Contribute to a report on the health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Draft a report on aged care packages in Australia for 2008–09	Achieved
Draft a guide to the Aged Care Funding Instrument data for internal AIHW data users	Work in progress <i>Insufficient staff resources</i>
Contribute a chapter on older people born overseas in non-English-speaking countries for an external publication	Achieved
Draft a report on residential aged care in Australia for 2008–09	Achieved
Contribute to reports on the care pathways of older Australians (National Health and Medical Research Council grant)	Achieved <i>See Data Linkage Unit work group report on page 86</i>
Draft a report on the survey of dementia services in hospitals	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2011–12</i>
Publish a report on latent demand for aged care services	Not achieved <i>Output priority changed to a new report on dementia and the Aged Care Funding Instrument</i>
Contribute to drafting a report on the use of hospitals by people in residential aged care	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>

- Develop the unit's capacity to fill information gaps about the aged care system as a whole and patterns of use by different groups of older people through the analysis of linked aged care data

Additional projects

- Finalised and published *Aged care packages in the community 2007–08: a statistical overview* and *Carers National Data repository scoping study: final report*
- Redeveloped and enhanced the annual reports on residential aged care services in Australia and on aged care packages in the community in Australia, including by the production and internet posting of data cubes
- Drafted a bulletin examining new variables on health conditions of permanent aged care residents with dementia derived from the Aged Care Funding Instrument that is used to collect data in residential aged care facilities
- Provided expert advice for a Dementia Collaborative Research Centre project that examined the utility of the Aged Care Funding Instrument as a vehicle for improving staff skills and knowledge in care planning and management of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia
- Continued working with the Data Linkage Unit to produce updated and more accurate estimates of movements of people between residential aged care and hospital and vice versa, using an event-based data linkage method
- Checked data and data quality statements for the COAG aged care performance indicators provided by DoHA. Contributed to the redevelopment of an aged care performance indicator for use in the 2010–11 report

Committees

- Aged Care Working Group: Member of this working group of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision; the working group is chaired by Ms Rebekah Burton (Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet)
- Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Advisory Committee: Member of this committee chaired by Professor Henry Brodaty (Primary Dementia Collaborative Research Centre)
- Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Steering Committee: Member of this committee chaired by Professor Henry Brodaty (Primary Dementia Collaborative Research Centre)
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Output Reference Group: Member of this ABS committee, chaired by Dr Paul Jelfs (ABS)
- The Dynamic Analyses to Optimise Ageing project Steering Committee: Member of this committee chaired by Professor Kaarin Anstey (Australian National University)

Data collections managed

The unit does not collate any data collections but maintains, documents and analyses national data held at the AIHW on residential aged care, Community Aged Care Packages, Extended Aged Care at Home, Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia, Transition Care, and Home and Community Care.

Child and Youth Welfare Unit

Unit heads

Mr Tim Beard

Ms Cynthia Kim—Technical Advisor

What we do

The Child and Youth Welfare Unit informs community debate and supports the development of public policy in the area of child and youth welfare. The unit coordinates, develops and disseminates relevant, timely national statistical analysis and reporting for a diverse range of child and youth welfare issues. The work of the unit covers the following areas: adoptions, child protection services (including out-of-home care, educational outcomes and family support services), juvenile justice and prisoner health.

Objectives

- Ensure that projects and reporting identify implications for policy development, service

planning and delivery that will improve the quality of life for children and young people

- Improve reporting on children in the child protection system through the development of a unit record data collection, and the development of new collections on foster carers and family support services
- Undertake longitudinal reporting on the educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders
- Improve national data standards and reporting for children in the early childhood education sector
- Expand the range of information collected in the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set and improve the reporting of juvenile justice data to enhance its policy and program relevance
- Develop the prisoner health data collection to provide relevant information to inform policy making

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise chapter on children, youth and families for <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Contribute on prisoners' health to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Adoptions Australia 2008–09</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Child protection Australia 2008–09</i>	Achieved <i>See the 'snapshot' on page 100</i>
Provide reports to the National Community Services Information Management Group and the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council in relation to Stage 2 Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Report to the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council on child protection workshop	Not achieved <i>Workshop replaced with inaugural meeting of child protection Performance and Data Working Group</i>
Publish <i>Juvenile justice in Australia 2007–08</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>From corrections to community: a set of indicators of the health of Australia's prisoners</i>	Achieved
Contribute data to child protection section of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision's <i>Report on government services 2010</i>	Achieved

Additional projects

- Published *The health of Australia's prisoners 2009* (see the 'snapshot' on page 99)
- Developed a national relative and kinship carers data collection (ongoing development)
- Completed development work on a national foster carers data collection
- Continued analysis of the relationship of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set with other related data collections, including liaison with the ABS and the Australian Institute of Criminology, and assistance in the development of key performance indicators
- Completed Stage 1 development of national data standards and protocols for early childhood education

Committees

- Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group: Secretariat for this Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators committee, chaired by Ms Julie Gunn (South Australian Department of Families and Communities)
- Prisoner Health Information Group: Secretariat for this committee chaired by Mr Alun Richards (Queensland Health)
- Performance and Data Working Group (for child protection): Observer at this National

Framework Implementation Working Group committee chaired by Mr Paul Wyles (ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services) and Ms Bette Kill (Queensland Department of Communities)

- Unit Record Working Group (child protection): Secretariat for this Performance and Data Working Group committee chaired by Mr John Prent (Victorian Department of Human Services)

Data collections managed

- Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set collection
- Prisoner Health Census collection
- Adoptions data collection
- Child abuse and neglect (child protection) data collection
- Children in out-of-home care (child protection) data collection
- Children on care and protection orders (child protection) data collection
- Intensive family support services (child protection) data collection
- Educational outcomes project (child protection) data collection

Children, Youth and Families Unit

Unit head

Ms Sushma Mathur

What we do

The Children, Youth and Families Unit aims to monitor, investigate and report on the health and wellbeing of Australia's children and young

people. It does this by developing, analysing and disseminating relevant and timely national information and statistics on the health and wellbeing of Australia's children, young people and families. The unit undertakes work in the areas of child and youth health, development and wellbeing, encompassing early childhood development, health status, risk and protective factors, education and employment, family and community environments, and safety and security.



The health of prisoners

After several years' development of the relevant national indicators, the AIHW released *The health of Australia's prisoners 2009*. This report showed that, on average, prisoners have poorer health than the general community. It also reported data relating to communicable diseases, educational attainment, deaths in custody, the use of health services and the types of medications used by prisoners.

Key findings:

Of prison entrants...

- 18% were taking medication for mental health-related conditions
- 43% had had a head injury resulting in a loss of consciousness
- 35% tested positive to hepatitis C, 21% tested positive to the hepatitis B antibody and less than 1% tested positive to HIV
- 74% smoked daily
- 16% suffered from asthma
- 75% had completed Year 10 or less at school
- 25% were Indigenous.

Of prisoners...

- they attended prison clinics an average of twice a week
- many had diabetes and mental health issues—these were very common problems managed in prison clinics
- they took an average of 2.3 medications daily
- 21% were taking medication for mental health-related conditions
- in over 70% of their clinic visits for primary health care the services were provided by nurses.

SNAPSHOT

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Finalise chapter on children, youth and families for <i>Australia's welfare 2009</i>	Achieved
Contribute to the children and youth sections of <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Health and wellbeing of young Australians: indicator framework and key national indicators</i>	Achieved
Draft report on the health and wellbeing of Australia's young people	Work in progress Draft to be reviewed in August 2010
Draft report on Children's Headline Indicators	Work in progress Draft report to be reviewed in September 2010
Electronically disseminate Children's Headline Indicators	Achieved
Produce biannual status reports on Children's Headline Indicators	Achieved
Produce data development information papers for Children's Headline Indicators: shelter, family social network and social and emotional wellbeing	Work in progress To be published in 2010–11

Objectives

- Develop data and expand reporting to further strengthen the policy relevance of the unit's work. This is reflected in several projects that are underway, such as reporting and developing data on the Children's Headline Indicators and for young Australians, and exploring longitudinal data sets of children with disability
- Provide national leadership in statistics and information related to the health and wellbeing of children and youth

Additional projects

- Published *Health and wellbeing of young Australians: technical paper on operational definitions and data issues for key national indicators*
- Developed a reporting framework for early childhood development that will feed

into the Early Childhood Development Information Strategy

- Improved national data standards and reporting for children in the early childhood education sector

Committees

- National Youth Information Advisory Group: Secretariat for this AIHW committee chaired by Professor George Patton (The University of Melbourne)
- Headline Indicator Data Development Expert Working Group: Chair of and secretariat for this AIHW committee
- Early Childhood Data Subgroup: Observer at this group chaired by Mr Tony Cook (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations)

Child protection



It sounds grim: over 200,000 Australian children were the subject of one or more child protection notifications in 2008–09, according to *Child protection Australia 2008–09*.

'Over the past year, the number of children on care and protection orders and the number of children in out-of-home care increased by almost 10%', said Kate Valentine of the AIHW's Child and Youth Welfare Unit.

The corollary of the apparent increase in children needing protection is that child protection services are being used by larger numbers. The figures also suggest an important shift in perceptions.

'The results show greater community awareness, a broadening of what governments regard as child abuse or neglect, and changes in child protection policies and practices', said Ms Valentine.

The report reveals a broad network of intensive family support services across Australia, with 254 services available in 267 locations in 2009.

The aim of these services is to strengthen family relationships, improve families' ability to care for their children and, ultimately, create a nation of more functional, autonomous, harmonious families.

The publication is the 13th annual comprehensive child protection report, and is invaluable to those involved in creating a better future for Australian children and their families.

Indigenous Community and Health Service Reporting Unit

Unit head

Dr Norbert Zmijewski

What we do

The Indigenous Community and Health Service Reporting Unit is responsible for reporting against the Healthy for Life, OATSIH Service Reporting and the Fixing Houses for Better Health projects. The unit is also responsible for mapping services and providing baseline data for the selected Indigenous communities under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

Objectives

- Coordinate Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations reporting across the AIHW in relation to reporting on Indigenous Australians
- Develop the concept of access relevant to need
- Develop regional and community profiles for selected areas based on Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations targets
- Work with OATSIH in the streamlining of their reporting requirements for Indigenous-specific primary health-care services

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute text on Indigenous Australians to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Develop Healthy for Life service reports and final national reports	Achieved
Develop OATSIH Service Reporting national reports	Achieved <i>First report to be published in 2010–11</i>
Develop regional profiles in data that can be disaggregated at community or regional levels	Achieved

Additional projects

- Undertook data development of indicators, definitions, technical specifications and standards for the Healthy for Life project
- Prepared papers comparing performance indicators used in various reporting systems, and on the taxonomy of OATSIH services
- Improved data collections for OATSIH Service Reporting
- Provided advice to DoHA on the development of key performance indicators for primary health
- Contributed to reports on baseline data and mapping of health, aged care, disability and child protection services for FaHCSIA documents in relation to the National

Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery

Committees

- Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting Design and Development Working Group: Member of this working group chaired by Mr Kevin Swift (Menzies School of Health Research)

Data collections managed

- Healthy for Life data collection
- OATSIH Service Reporting data collection

Indigenous Data Gaps Unit

The unit was formerly known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Evaluation and Capacity Building Unit.

Unit heads

Ms Barbara Gray (acting from November 2009)

Ms Tulip Penney (to November 2009)

What we do

The Indigenous Data Gaps Unit manages a range of data activities that seek to improve Indigenous health and welfare data in order to better monitor the COAG's Indigenous Closing the Gap targets.

The unit coordinates and carries out projects to improve the quality of data to monitor outcomes for Indigenous people. It also compiles, analyses and disseminates data on a range of topics related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare including the National Indigenous Reform Agreement indicators.

The unit manages the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse that is being delivered in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Family Studies. It is an online source for evidence-based research on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage. The Clearinghouse provides access to a single online repository of material, rates the quality of the evidence, and advises on gaps and priorities for future research and evaluation.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to a report on the health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2011 and the associated web observatory	Work in progress
Provide analyses and data quality statements for second-cycle reporting of the COAG performance indicators for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and for Indigenous-specific reporting in other COAG agreements	Work in progress <i>To be completed in 2010</i>
Produce a business case for the inclusion of Indigenous status on pathology forms to improve Indigenous information available through health registers	Work in progress <i>Drafted for consideration through Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council committees</i>
Produce a paper on measuring need and access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Work in progress
Produce a report on appropriate methodologies for assessing the quality of Indigenous data in key health data sets and assess the effects on the measurement of COAG targets	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Produce guidelines for national best practice for Indigenous data linkage	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Produce a Closing the Gap Clearinghouse website providing public access to a repository of material relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues	Achieved <i>(See the 'snapshot' on page 103)</i>
Produce reviewed and rated assessments of research and evaluations as part of the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse functions	Achieved
Produce a paper on gaps in the available research and evaluation evidence, and on priorities for future research for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Report on the Enhanced Mortality Database for Estimating Indigenous Life Expectancy	Work in progress <i>First stage completed</i>

Objectives

- Increase the accessibility of information through the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse to help policy makers and planners who are involved in programs that seek to close the gap in outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

In November 2009, several objectives were added following an expansion of the unit.

- Engage with policy agendas by ensuring that the unit's projects are relevant to the policy, planning and service delivery that relate to closing the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and other Australians
- Improve reporting on outcomes and service delivery for Indigenous Australians through data development and analysis for indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement

and Indigenous indicators in the National Healthcare Agreement

- Improve reporting and analysis relevant to closing the gap by developing and implementing methodologies to assess Indigenous identification in key health data sets
- Improve the quality of data, in particular on life expectancy, for Indigenous Australians through the development of data linkage and national best practice Indigenous data linkage guidelines

Committees

- National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group: Observer at this COAG Working Group on Indigenous Reform committee chaired by Mr Matthew James (FaHCSIA)



Closing the Gap Clearinghouse

Under the direction of the COAG, the AIHW has, in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Family Studies, established a clearinghouse for evidence on what works to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

The Closing the Gap Clearinghouse includes a collection of material assessed by experts, as well as a general collection of research, evaluations and other material; issues papers and resource sheets commissioned by the Clearinghouse; and a research and evaluation register.

The Clearinghouse relates to the seven building blocks endorsed by COAG:

- early childhood
- economic participation
- governance and leadership
- health
- healthy homes
- safe communities
- schooling.

The Clearinghouse makes it easier for policy makers, service providers and the public to find out what is 'best practice' and most successful in reducing Indigenous disadvantage. Visit the Clearinghouse at <www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap>.



Indigenous Determinants and Outcomes Unit

Unit head

Dr Indrani Pieris-Caldwell

What we do

The Indigenous Determinants and Outcomes Unit provides information on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians through a range of statistical reports, research, evaluation and data quality improvement projects. The unit manages and reports on a major data collection on the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative and

associated follow-up care. The unit is responsible for reporting against the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework, which is published every two years. The unit will also begin a process for evaluating two projects during the next financial year: evaluation of the demonstration projects on improving sexual health in Indigenous youth, and the national best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets.

Objectives

- In conjunction with OATSIH, work on the evaluation of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative and the Expanding Health Services Delivery Initiative

New data collection guidelines for Indigenous status

All Australians should soon become accustomed to being asked 'Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' when they visit a health service, following the release of new AIHW data collection guidelines.

The *National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets* stresses that the question, 'Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' should be asked of all clients, irrespective of appearance, country of birth or whether the staff know of the client or their family background.

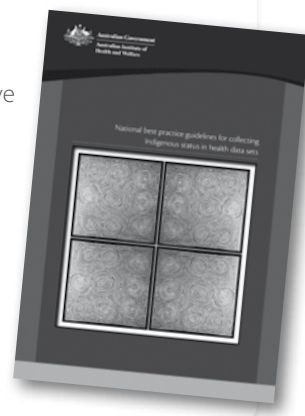
According to the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement, all states and territories will adopt the guidelines and have them in systematic use by December 2012.

'We know that the question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin is not always asked of every client, because staff may not realise the question is important, or they are concerned that this question is sensitive or even discriminatory', said Kerryn Pholi of the AIHW's National Indigenous Data Improvement Support Centre.

'Asking the question helps the design, delivery and evaluation of services to Indigenous Australians. It also helps researchers, policy makers and community organisations who rely on the data to understand and improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people', Ms Pholi said.

The report includes recommendations for putting the guidelines into practice, and gives useful advice for dealing with common scenarios such as when the client is too ill to be asked or does not speak English, or when Indigenous status has to be established for a deceased person.

Also included are practical and easy guidelines for staff who might be reluctant to ask the question, and examples of clear concise responses if the client wants to know why they are being asked.



- Provide timely and high-quality information necessary to respond to important policy questions
 - How many children are receiving child health checks and follow-up care in remote communities of the Northern Territory?
 - Are children receiving needed and appropriate health care?
- Undertake analysis of data and information for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework
 - trajectories for some child mortality target supplementary indicators—infant mortality, low birthweight and antenatal care—were produced
 - this work has been published on the National Indigenous Health Equity Council website

Committees

- Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Initiative MoU Management Committee: Member of this AIHW–DoHA committee chaired by Dr Brendan Gibson (OATSIH, DoHA)
- Health Performance Framework Technical Reference Group: Member of this DoHA committee, chaired by Ms Kirrily Harrison (OATSIH, DoHA)
- Social Inclusion Indicator Sub-group: Member of this Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet committee, chaired by Ms Joanne Hillermann (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet)

Data collections managed

- Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative data collection

Additional projects

- Published *National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets*
- Expanded the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative data collection to include two data sets on ear, nose and throat services, and surgery
- Completed some preliminary work on trajectories at the national level for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement child mortality target to halve the gap in mortality in children aged under 5 years within a decade (between 2008 and 2018)

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to a report on the health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish <i>Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative: update on results from the Child Health Check and follow-up data collections</i>	Achieved
Publish a report on extended measures for assessing the social and emotional wellbeing for Indigenous Australians	Work in progress <i>Draft completed for consultation</i>
Develop a communication and dissemination strategy for best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status information	Achieved
Finalise report on geographical analyses of health status	Work in progress <i>Awaiting decision on population data and other data updates</i>
Finalise a draft report on substance use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Achieved
Produce a report on the outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles Review	Work in progress <i>Awaiting survey responses</i>
Produce 6-monthly monitoring reports on the Improving Sexual Health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demonstration Projects	Achieved

Collaborating units

The AIHW has collaborative arrangements in place during 2009–10 with a number of research organisations, based mainly at universities (see **Appendix 6** on page 157).

The organisations listed below—and in the work group reports that follow—work collaboratively with the AIHW and provide their expertise for specific tasks funded by the AIHW.

- Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Limited
- Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre at The University of Sydney
- Dental Statistics and Research Unit at The University of Adelaide
- National Injury Surveillance Unit at the Flinders University of South Australia
- National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of New South Wales

Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring

The AIHW has an agreement with the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Limited for the enhanced monitoring of asthma and linked chronic respiratory conditions by the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring. The centre is based at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Sydney.

The agreement continues to 30 June 2013.

Unit head

Professor Guy Marks

What we do

The Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring aims to help in reducing the burden of asthma in Australia by developing, collating and interpreting data relevant to asthma prevention, management and health policy.

Objectives

- Develop a systematic approach to the surveillance of asthma in Australia
- Monitor and report on disease levels and the burden and trends associated with asthma in the general population and specific population groups
- Examine social, geographical and environmental differentials that may influence the disease levels and burden associated with asthma
- Identify the potential for improved asthma prevention and management strategies
- Track the impact of changes in asthma prevention and management strategies
- Develop and manage special projects and collaborations for the integration and enhancement of asthma-related information

Outputs in 2009–10

Finalised the asthma chapter for *Australia's health 2010*

Published *Refining national asthma indicators: Delphi survey and correlation analysis* (e-report)

Published *Burden of disease due to asthma in Australia 2003*

Published *Asthma in Australian children: findings from Growing up in Australia, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children*

Published the journal article 'Cost is a major barrier to the use of inhaled corticosteroids for obstructive airways disease'

Published 'Asthma in Indigenous Australians: so much yet to do for Indigenous lung health' (editorial)

Published 'Asthma in older adults: a holistic, person-centred and problem-oriented approach' (editorial)

Began work on an overview report on asthma in Australia in 2011

Drafted a report on time trends and geographical variation in re-admissions for asthma

Provided relevant data to the AIHW for an 'Asthma snapshot' website

Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre

The Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre collects and disseminates information on the characteristics of patients of general practitioners and the medical and pharmaceutical prescriptions provided to patients. The AIHW receives funds from DoHA to contribute to the work of the Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre. The centre receives the remainder of its funding from the private sector. The centre is located at the Westmead Hospital campus of The University of Sydney in association with the Family Medicine Research Centre of the university's School of Public Health.

Unit head

Associate Professor Helena Britt

What we do

The Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre continuously collects information about clinical activities in general practice in Australia including characteristics of general practitioners, patients seen, reasons people seek medical care, problems managed and how they are managed by the general practitioners. The centre is also responsible for the development of primary care classification systems.

Objectives

- Provide information about activities in general practice by conducting continuous data collection in general practice and widely disseminating the results
- Continue development and testing of data collection and analytical methods for gathering data through electronic means
- Further develop and maintain classification and terminology systems for primary care

Outputs in 2009–10

Published *General practice activity in Australia, health priorities and policies 1998 to 2008*

Published *General practice activity in Australia 2008–09*

Published *General practice activity in Australia 1999–00 to 2008–09: 10 year data tables*

Data collections managed

- Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) data collection, as data collector

Dental Statistics and Research Unit

The AIHW has an agreement with The University of Adelaide for the operation of the AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit at the university. The unit was established for the purposes of collecting, collating and analysing statistics relating to dental care and oral health, and on dental services and service providers; and for initiating and undertaking associated research studies.

Unit head

Associate Professor David Brennan

What we do

The Dental Statistics and Research Unit aims to improve the oral health of Australians through the collection, analysis and reporting of dental statistics, and through research on dental health status, dental practices and use of dental services, and the dental labour force.

Objectives

- Conduct the Child Dental Health Survey and collect dental labour force statistics
- Produce reports in the form of the 'Dental statistics and research' series, research reports, and 'Data watch' articles
- Undertake data development to meet the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations reporting requirements

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Publish a report on the Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 2007	Work in progress <i>Awaiting data supply</i>
Publish a brief research report on child oral health	Work in progress <i>Awaiting data supply</i>
Publish a brief research report on the dental labour force	Work in progress <i>Report drafted</i>
Publish an ARCPOH 'Data watch' journal article on the oral health and visiting patterns of Indigenous Australians aged 35–54 years	Achieved
Publish an ARCPOH 'Data watch' journal article on dental specialists in Australia	Achieved

Additional projects

- Conducted the annual Child Dental Health Survey of clinical dental health and dental attendance of about 80,000 children treated by state and territory school dental services
- Collected practice activity statistics for the dental labour force: all registered dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists and dental technicians
- Undertook data development to support the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations performance indicators for
 - waiting times for public dentistry
 - number of dental services (public and private) per 1,000 population (by location)
- Finalised and published *Dental health of Australia's teenagers and pre-teen children: the Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 2003–04, Trends in access to dental care among Australian children, Oral health impacts among children by dental visiting and treatment needs and Oral health behaviours in the Australian population 2004–06*

- Finalised and published ARCPH 'Data watch' journal articles on periodontal diseases in Australian adults, and dental visiting and use of services by older Australians

Committees

- Oral Health Advisory Committee: Member of this South Australian Department of Health committee, chaired by Sinead O'Brien (South Australian Department of Health)

Data collections managed

- Child Dental Health Survey data collection
- Adult Dental Programs Survey data collection
- Dental Labour Force Data Collection
- National Dental Telephone Interview Survey data collection

National Injury Surveillance Unit

The AIHW has an agreement with Flinders University for the operation of the AIHW National Injury Surveillance Unit at the university. The unit was developed for the purposes of informing community discussion and supporting policy making on the prevention and control of injury in Australia by developing, coordinating, interpreting and disseminating relevant information, research and analysis.

Unit head

Associate Professor James Harrison

What we do

The National Injury Surveillance Unit aims to be the main source of national statistical reporting on injury in Australia.

Objectives

- Analyse and report on existing data
- Assess needs and opportunities for new information sources and mechanisms, and for improvement of existing ones
- Develop new information sources and other relevant infrastructure
- Provide advice and other services to assist others who are engaged in injury control and related matters

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish a report on serious injury due to land transport accidents, 2007–08	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on trends in serious injury due to land transport accidents	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on injury of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people due to transport	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on injury hospitalisations for 2007–08	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on hospitalisations due to falls by older people for 2007–08	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on injury deaths for 2007–08	Work in progress <i>Awaiting supply of data</i>
Publish a report on Indigenous injury	Work in progress <i>Awaiting population data</i>
Publish a report on alcohol and drug-related injury	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>
Publish a report on obesity and injury	Work in progress <i>To be published in 2010–11</i>

Achievements

- Undertook injury surveillance system enhancement and development work relating to severity measures, Global Burden of Disease methods and use of linked data
- Published *A review of suicide statistics in Australia, Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2006–07* and *Serious injury due to transport accidents involving a railway train, Australia 2002–03 to 2006–07*
- Finalised and published *Spinal cord injury, Australia 2007–08* and *Injury deaths, Australia 2004–05*
- Undertook development work for a performance indicator on hospital standardised mortality ratios
- Cleaned and prepared morbidity and mortality data relevant to injury surveillance
- Undertook classification enhancement and development work relevant to injury surveillance
- Provided a public information and advisory service
- Provided expert advice and input to relevant AIHW projects and publications
- Contributed to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 11th Revision

Committees

- International Classification of Diseases Revision Steering Group, Injury and External Causes Topic Advisory Group: Chair of this WHO committee
- National Injury Prevention Working Group: Member of this working group of the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee; the working group is chaired by Dr Tony Sherbon (South Australian Department of Health)
- National Children's Information Advisory Group: Member of this AIHW committee, chaired by Professor George Patton (University of Melbourne)
- Centre for Automotive Safety Research Advisory Board: Member of this Adelaide University committee, chaired by Mr Tom Phillips (Centre for Automotive Safety Research)
- National Committee for Standardised Reporting on Suicide: Member of this Suicide Prevention Australia committee, chaired by Dr Michael Dudley (Suicide Prevention Australia)

Data collections managed

- Australian Spinal Cord Injury Register

National Perinatal Statistics Unit

The AIHW has an agreement with the University of New South Wales for the operation of the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the university. The unit was established for the purposes of providing national leadership in the development and study of statistics relating to perinatal health; collecting, collating and analysing statistics relating to perinatal health; and initiating and undertaking associated research studies.

Unit heads

Associate Professor Tessa Ho (acting from April 2010)
Associate Professor Elizabeth Sullivan

What we do

The National Perinatal Statistics Unit aims to improve the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies in Australia through the collection, analysis and reporting of national reproductive and perinatal health information.

Objectives

- Continue to manage and evolve key data collections
- Publish reports on reproductive and perinatal health that cover pregnancy outcomes, maternal morbidity and mortality, assisted reproduction and congenital anomalies
- Undertake data development work to support the new National Indigenous Reform Agreement and National Health Agreement performance reporting requirements
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders, including DoHA, to liaise and exchange information with stakeholders on future activities and funding opportunities

Additional projects

- Provided statistical advice and information for ad hoc data requests for perinatal information
- Undertook data development in support of new reporting requirements under the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Federal Financial Relations



Australia's mothers and babies

In December 2009, AIHW released the 17th report into births in Australia, drawing on perinatal data collections from all states and territories. *Australia's mothers and babies 2007* presents a comprehensive overview of births in 2007.

The report provides a detailed picture of the circumstances and risk factors associated with mothers and their babies.

It takes into account the demographic, socioeconomic and lifestyle conditions of mothers. As well, it describes the circumstances surrounding the conception and birth of their children, such as the rates of assisted reproductive technology, analgesia use and home births, and the numbers of caesarean sections administered.

The outcomes of the births are also documented, with data provided on perinatal deaths, birthweight and the post-partum wellbeing of the mother.

The overriding message of the report is that Australia's 'baby boom' is continuing, with over 12,000 more births in 2007 than in 2006.

Performance against planned outputs in 2009–10

Contribute to <i>Australia's health 2010</i>	Achieved
Publish <i>Australia's mothers and babies 2007</i>	Achieved
Undertake a comprehensive review of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality data collections in Australia	Achieved
Produce data for three National Healthcare Agreement indicators and four National Indigenous Reform Agreement indicators	Achieved
Publish <i>Assisted reproductive technology in Australia and New Zealand 2007</i>	Achieved

- Participated in collaborative work on the evolution of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
- Continued work to include the Indigenous status of the baby in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set, including stakeholder consultation and consideration by relevant national information committees to proceed with the implementation
- Began consultation with stakeholders on the development of new data items about alcohol use in pregnancy and the number of visits for antenatal care for the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set
- Produced a report on the prevalence of neural tube defects in pregnancies ending in the years 2006–2008. This updates baseline information up to the introduction of mandatory folate and iodine fortification of flour in 2009
- Provided detailed tables for the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery
- Provided detailed tables and text for the national 'Outcomes of diabetes in pregnancy for Australian women and their babies' report
- Provided tables for the Children's Headline Indicators, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework, Young Australians report and Chronic Disease Indicators report

Committees

- Review of Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Data Collections Expert Reference Group: Secretariat for this committee chaired by Professor David Ellwood (Australian National University)
- National Child Information Advisory Group: Member of this AIHW committee chaired by Professor George Patton (University of Melbourne)
- Mortality Statistics Advisory Group: Member of this ABS committee
- Australia and New Zealand Stillbirth Alliance: Member of this committee chaired by Professor David Ellwood (Australian National University)
- Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network Advisory Committee: Member of this committee chaired by Professor Brian Darlow (University of Otago)
- National Perinatal Data Development Committee: Member of this committee chaired by Ms Sue Cornes (Queensland Department of Health)

Data collections managed

- National Perinatal Data Collection
- Australian Congenital Anomalies Monitoring System collection
- National Maternal Deaths Data Collection