

The National Health Performance Framework

The National Health Performance Framework (NHPF) provides a conceptual framework to understand and evaluate the health of Australians and the health system. The NHPF has 14 health dimensions grouped under 3 domains: health status, determinants of health, and health system performance (see **Figure**).

It is designed as an enduring framework—it is not linked to any particular agreement nor is it designed to support performance reporting relating to a specific policy agenda. Instead, it serves as a general support for performance assessment, planning and benchmarking in the health sector.

A set of indicators was developed to populate the dimensions of the NHPF and, since 2008, at the request of health ministers, the AIHW has reported on these national health performance indicators biennially in the *Australia's health* report. The indicators that are currently reported were developed so that they would meaningfully reflect the dimensions of the framework and be practical to implement in terms of cost effectiveness, timeliness and availability of quality data.

The NHPF was developed in 2001 by the National Health Performance Committee under the auspices of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (NHPC 2002), and was most recently revised and agreed by health ministers in 2009.

Reference:

NHPC (National Health Performance Committee) 2002. National report on health sector performance indicators 2001. Brisbane: Queensland Health.

Figure: The National Health Performance Framework 2009

<p align="center">Health status</p> <p align="center"><i>How healthy are Australians? Is it the same for everyone? Where are the best opportunities for improvement?</i></p>			
<p>Health conditions</p> <p>Prevalence of disease, disorder, injury or trauma, or other health-related states.</p>	<p>Human function</p> <p>Alterations to body structure or function (impairment), activity limitations and restrictions in participation.</p>	<p>Wellbeing</p> <p>Measures of physical, mental and social wellbeing of individuals.</p>	<p>Deaths</p> <p>Mortality rates and measures of life expectancy.</p>
<p align="center">Determinants of health</p> <p align="center"><i>Are the factors determining good health changing for the better? Where and for who are these factors changing? Is it the same for everyone?</i></p>			
<p>Environmental factors</p> <p>Physical, chemical and biological factors such as air, water and soil quality.</p>	<p>Community and socioeconomic</p> <p>Community factors such as social capital, support services, and socioeconomic factors such as housing, education, employment and income.</p>	<p>Health behaviours</p> <p>Attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and behaviours such as patterns of eating, physical activity, smoking, and alcohol consumption.</p>	<p>Biomedical factors</p> <p>Genetic-related susceptibility to disease, and other factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol levels and body weight.</p>
<p align="center">Health system performance</p> <p align="center"><i>How does the health system perform? What is the level of quality of care across the range of patient care needs? Is it the same for everyone? Does the system deliver value for money and is it sustainable?</i></p>			
<p>Effectiveness</p> <p>Care, intervention, or action provided is relevant to the client's needs and based on established standards. Care, intervention or action achieves desired outcome.</p>	<p>Continuity of care</p> <p>Ability to provide uninterrupted, coordinated care or service across programs, practitioners, organisations and levels over time.</p>	<p>Safety</p> <p>The avoidance—or reduction to acceptable limits—of actual or potential harm from health-care management or the environment in which health care is delivered.</p>	
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>People can obtain health care at the right place and right time irrespective of income, physical location and cultural background.</p>	<p>Responsiveness</p> <p>Service is client oriented. Clients are treated with dignity and confidentiality, and encouraged to participate in choices related to their care.</p>	<p>Efficiency & sustainability</p> <p>Achieving desired results with the most cost-effective use of resources. Capacity of the system to sustain workforce and infrastructure, to innovate and respond to emerging needs.</p>	