

Institutional mental health services in Australia 1997–98

**First report on the National Minimum Data Set—
institutional mental health care**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is an independent health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is to inform community discussion and decision making through national leadership in the development and provision of authoritative and timely information on the health and welfare of Australians.

MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

Number 1

Institutional mental health services in Australia 1997–98

**First report on the National Minimum Data Set—
institutional mental health care**

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and
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January 2000

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

AIHW cat. no. HSE 7

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

ISSN 1443-6795
ISBN 1 74024 042 1

Suggested citation

Moore M, Shaw J, Grant B & Braddock D 2000. Institutional mental health services in Australia 1997–98: First report on the National Minimum Data Set—institutional mental health care. Canberra: AIHW (Mental Health Series no. 1).

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Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Printed by Ausdoc on Demand; Acrobat PDF conversion by Green Words & Images

Foreword

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is pleased to present *Institutional Mental Health Services in Australia 1997–98* which releases data in the first annual report of the National Minimum Data Set—institutional mental health care (NMDS). The publication of these data is a substantial step forward in the release of relevant information and the Institute will continue its efforts to report Australia’s mental health services statistics. Planning and developing the report also reflects a major effort by data providers in State and Territory health authorities, and by Institute staff.

The State and Territory data providers and the Institute will continue their efforts in improving national reporting of both patient-level and establishment-level data through the work of the National Mental Health Information Strategy Committee and the National Health Data Committee. A major effort is in progress under the National Health Information Agreement to improve standards for more consistent reporting on specialised mental health care data by all jurisdictions, and to ensure that the particular needs of data users in the field are met. We hope to improve timeliness of the hospital data further as the data supply problems and validation criteria for specialised mental health services are progressively addressed by State and Territory administrations. In addition, further work is planned for improving data standards and developing new data elements for reporting on community mental health care; data which will have an important strategic purpose in monitoring service delivery for people with a mental disorder.

We are keen to learn from users how the future reports can best meet their information needs and invite readers to comment on this first report of the institutional mental health care NMDS.

Richard Madden

Director

January 2000

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Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the valued co-operation and effort of the data providers in the health authorities of the States and Territories. The Institute thanks them for their timely supply of the data, validation of the Institute's databases and assistance in the preparation of this report. The Institute also wishes to thank the Commonwealth, State and Territory members of the National Mental Health Information Strategy Committee who assisted in the planning of this report and provided advice on the content of the report.

Within the Institute, the report was prepared by David Braddock, Brad Grant, Maryellen Moore and Janis Shaw. Clara Jellie provided assistance with final production. Jenny Hargreaves, Narelle Grayson and Ruth Pemn provided advice on the morbidity data and Tony Hynes provided advice on the hospital expenditure data. Amanda Nobbs coordinated the printing and publication process.

Janis Shaw managed the project.

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
BASIS	Behaviour and Symptom Identification Scale
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
CIDI	Composite International Diagnostic Interview
DALY	Disability-adjusted life year
DIP	Diagnostic interview for psychosis
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HACC	Home and Community Care
HONOS	Health of the Nation Outcome Scales
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision
ICD-9-CM	International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification, Australian version
ICPC-2	International Classification for Primary Care, 2nd Edition
LSP	Life skills profile
MHI	Mental Health Inventory
NHDC	National Health Data Committee
NHDD	<i>National Health Data Dictionary</i>
NHIMG	National Health Information Management Group
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHPA	National Health Priority Area
NHPC	National Health Priority Committee
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NMHISC	National Mental Health Information Strategy Committee
NMHWG	National Mental Health Working Group
NPHEd	National Public Health Establishments Database
NSMHS	National Survey Mental Health Services
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
RFE	Reason for encounter
RFS	Role Functioning Scale
SF-36	Medical Outcomes Study Short Form 36
WHO	World Health Organisation
YLD	Years lost due to disability
YLL	Years of life lost