

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**Annual report
1997-98**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

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The Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge MP
Minister for Health and Family Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the year to 30 June 1998.

Section 4(2)(a) of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* defines the Institute as a body corporate subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

During the current transitional arrangements for the latter Act, this annual report has been prepared to meet the requirements of division 3, part XI of the *Audit Act 1901*, as has been the case for earlier annual reports.

Future annual reports will be prepared to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act.

Yours sincerely

Professor Janice Reid
Chairperson of the Board

2 October 1998

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Foreword

From the Chairperson

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



The past year has seen concentrated activity at the Institute, with the launches of our two premier publications, *Australia's Welfare* and *Australia's Health*, the release of other publications of national significance such as *Australian Hospital Statistics 1996–97*, and the first edition of the *National Community Services Data Dictionary*.

The Board of the Institute had significant input into all of these projects, and I must say that we are all very proud of the results.

The Board has also involved itself with some significant administrative issues, including privacy and data security, the establishment of desktop email, and business principles and charging policy. We also considered the issues surrounding the establishment of a new General Practice Statistics and Classification Collaborating Unit and its Survey of General Practice Activity.

Finally, I must mention the National Health Information Knowledgebase, which was launched on 1 July 1997. This exciting new Internet-based product provides integrated access to health and (shortly) community services data dictionaries and data models, as well as a significant register of Australian data collections. It has received international recognition, and rightly so!

The 1997–98 year marks the end of the term of the current Board. I know I speak for all Board members when I say that it has been a fascinating three years—three years of enterprise, sound management and great achievements in a unique organisation.

We will always be proud to have been associated with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Professor Janice Reid

AIHW mission

The mission of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is:

We inform community discussion and decision making through national leadership in the development and provision of authoritative and timely information and analysis on the health and welfare of Australians.

AIHW values

We contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Australians by observing these values in all our work:

Objectivity

- We maintain impartiality and objectivity in the analysis, preparation and presentation of information.
- We make our findings and methods accessible to all.

Quality

- We gather, analyse and disseminate information according to statistical and ethical standards.

Respect

- We ensure the confidentiality of information provided to us.
- We respect the privacy and sensitivity of individuals and groups.

Accessibility

- We provide accessible health and welfare information for all Australians.
- We make information available in a timely manner, in forms and styles relevant to our clients' needs.

Independence

- We ensure that our work is in accordance with our mission and values regardless of the funding source.

Client focus

- To ensure the relevance of our work, we actively seek and are guided by the needs and views of our clients.

People

- We respect each other and promote each other's creativity, expertise and wellbeing.

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