



Australian Government
**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**



AIHW Submission

Inquiry into Australian Centre for Disease Control Bill 2025
and Australian Centre for Disease Control (Consequential
Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2025

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

25 September 2025

Introduction

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee regarding the Australian Centre for Disease Control Bill 2025 (the Bill) and the Australian Centre for Disease Control (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2025 (C&T Bill).

About the AIHW

The AIHW is an independent statutory Australian Government agency with more than 35 years of experience working with health and welfare data. We produce meaningful and authoritative information and statistics to inform better decisions, leading to improved health and welfare for all Australians. Our role includes:

- developing and maintaining statistical information standards
- collecting and managing data on health and welfare issues
- analysing and reporting data and information
- improving data collections
- addressing information gaps.

We are an international leader in data linkage with a strong record in both our own linkage work, and in performing linkage for other researchers and organisations. The AIHW linkage system encompasses key Australian health and welfare data sets, including the [COVID-19 Register](#). It applies the guiding principles of privacy by design, share once and use many times, and efficient methodologies and processes.

Submission

The AIHW welcomes the establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC) as an independent agency to lead national disease surveillance, prevention and control, and improve the way Australia prepares for and responds to health emergencies.

We have been working closely with the interim Australian CDC since its commencement in January 2024 by providing advice on data strategy, infrastructure, governance, and legislative pathways. The interim Australian CDC has drawn on AIHW's extensive experience in person-based, de-identified, cross-jurisdictional data linkage to explore options for linkage of communicable disease data with health and other datasets.

In July 2025, AIHW was contracted by the interim Australian CDC to commence a pilot project to link communicable disease data with the AIHW linkage system, thereby establishing the foundation for the Australian CDC's proposed data linkage infrastructure.

The tabling of the Bill and the C&T Bill marks a significant milestone in strengthening Australia's public health infrastructure and pandemic preparedness. Both bills reflect a well-considered data sharing framework that support national requirements and avoid the constraints of past legislation.

In particular, the Bill facilitates a contemporary and streamlined approach to data sharing and access to linked Commonwealth and state and territory government data sets. Effective data sharing, linkage and access arrangements will improve the availability of public health insights and evidence for the CDC and prescribed public health entities, maintaining data security and privacy while enabling better decisions and health outcomes for Australians.

By identifying the AIHW as a designated data service provider, the Bill enables the AIHW to continue to support the data capability of the CDC. It also allows us to carry out our functions in relation to the production of national statistics relevant to public health matters, and the provision of safe access to deidentified information about public health matters for research.

Some functions of the CDC as defined in the Bill are similar to functions of the AIHW, as established in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. This includes the gathering, analysis, and reporting of health-related information, and the development of statistical standards and classifications relevant to public health. We note that the explanatory memorandum states that The Australian CDC would not duplicate what the Commonwealth Government and states and territories already do. We welcome this approach and are committed to working with the CDC, not only to ensure effective co-ordination and avoid duplication across agencies, but also to explore how the AIHW's extensive existing capability, data services and infrastructure can complement the CDC's work, improving outcomes for all Australians through ongoing collaboration.

Contact

Should the Committee have any queries about the information we have provided in this submission or wish to seek additional information from the AIHW, please contact Dr Zoran Bolevich, Chief Executive Officer via telephone or email