Australian Government
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is a major national data agency set up by the Australian Government in 1987 to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute is an independent statutory authority which has a workforce of about 330 staff, releases around 150 publications every year and provides information for the COAG Reform Council and the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services*. The AIHW's work is frequently referenced by the media.

The Institute's core functions are to:

- identify and meet the information needs of governments and the community to enable them to make informed decisions to improve the health and welfare of Australians;
- provide authoritative and timely information and analysis to the Australian, state and territory governments through the collection, analysis and dissemination of national health, community services, and housing assistance; and
- develop, maintain and promote, in conjunction with its stakeholders, information standards for the community services, health, and housing and homelessness sectors.

The AIHW holds a range of data and produces publications that may be relevant to the considerations of the inquiry. Attachment A and Attachment B, respectively, give information on:

- data collections we hold which contain information on health and community services infrastructure at geographic disaggregations that may be able to support the work of the inquiry;
- information about our Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, which is an online collection of research and evaluation evidence on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage across the seven building blocks that support COAGs closing the gap targets. Although many Clearinghouse publications do not make specific reference to Northern Australia, some do make recommendations regarding infrastructure matters which may be of interest to the Committee.

The Institute also provides a very substantial range of information on the health of Australians and on aspects of social conditions and outcomes such as juvenile justice, homelessness and child protection. Our full range of releases can be found on our website: www.aihw.gov.au

If the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia wishes to make further use of the information that AIHW has available in its work please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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Head, Statistics and Communications Group

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Attachment A: AIHW holdings on health and community services infrastructure

Data collection	Description	Most recent relevant publications
National Public Hospital Establishments Data Collection (and data on hospitalisations and emergency department presentations)	The National Public Hospital Establishments Database holds information on the characteristics of public hospitals, including information on hospital resources (beds, staff and specialised services), recurrent expenditure (including depreciation), non-appropriation revenue and services to non-admitted patients. Level of geography – Statistical Local Area (SLA) of public hospital establishment to 2011–12. From 2012–13, street address and Statistical Area Level (SA) 2 of hospital establishment can be provided. The AIHW also holds information for all episodes of admitted patient care from essentially all Australia's public and private hospitals, and episode level data for emergency department (ED) presentations in Australian public hospitals. The hospitalisation data includes demographic, administrative and length of stay data, as well as data on the diagnoses of the patients, the procedures they underwent in hospital and external causes of injury and poisoning. The ED data includes information on patient demographics, triage category, waiting times and length of stay in ED. Level of Geography – SLA of usual residence of patient to 2011–12, SA2 of usual residence from 2012–13.	*Australian hospital statistics 2011–12* *Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: emergency department care*
Disability Services National Minimum Data Set	All states/territories, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Employment annually supply data to the AIHW on the number and types of disability support services provided under the National Disability Agreement.	*Disability support services – services provided under the National Disability Agreement 2011–12*

Data collection	Description	Most recent relevant publications
National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse	Included in the Data Clearinghouse are data on aged care providers, services, places, residents, care recipients and payments. Most of the information is reportable by aged care planning regions.	*Residential aged care and aged care packages in the community 2011–12* - web pages and supplementary material, available at http://www.aihw.gov.au/aged-care/residential-and-community-2011-12/
Mental Health Establishments National Minimum Data Set	Mental Health Establishments NMDS is a national data collection which collects establishment level data on all state and territory public-funded specialised mental health services including workforce profile and expenditure.	*Mental Health Services in Australia* - online publication, available at http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Service National Minimum Data Set (AODTS NMDS)	The AODTS NMDS is a collection of data about alcohol and other drug treatment services from public-funded treatment services in all states and territories, including those directly funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Data on the location of the treatment service agency are available at the SA2 level. Data are generally published at the national, state/territory and Remoteness Area levels.	*Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2011–12*
National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) collection	The NOPSAD collection captures snapshot information about clients, prescribers and dosing points of opioid pharmacotherapy used for treating opioid dependence in Australia (including methadone and buprenorphine). Data on the location of the dosing point are available at the SA2 level. Data are generally published at the national, state/territory and Remoteness Area levels.	*National opioid pharmacotherapy statistics annual data collection 2012*

Data collection	Description	Most recent relevant publications
Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC)	The SHSC collects information on people who receive services from agencies that receive funding under Commonwealth State agreements on homelessness to provide specialist homelessness services. Data are collected about the characteristics and circumstances of a client and the assistance the client receives.	*Specialist Homelessness Services 2012–13*
Public Rental Housing and State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing (SOMIH)	The data contain information about public rental housing and SOMIH dwellings, households assisted and households on the waitlists and are drawn from administrative data held by the jurisdictions. Data are classified according to their ARIA classification, as well being able to be drilled down to SA2 and SA3 level.	*Housing assistance in Australia 2013*
Community Housing	Data are sourced from community housing organisations via a survey and from the jurisdictions' administrative systems. The annual data collection captures information about community housing organisations, the dwellings they manage and the tenants assisted. Limited financial information from the previous financial year is also collected. Data are classified according to their ARIA classification, as well being able to be drilled down to SA2 and SA3 level.	*Report on Government Services 2013* (Productivity Commission, Canberra)
Indigenous Community Housing	Data are sourced from administrative data and dwelling audits (held by jurisdictions) and survey data from Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs). The annual data collection captures information about ICHOs, the dwellings they manage and the households assisted. Some financial data is also included. Data are classified according to their ARIA classification, as well being able to be drilled down to SA2 and SA3 level. There are dwellings which sit outside this collection, particularly in the NT, and are therefore unable to be included in analysis.	

Data collection	Description	Most recent relevant publications
Australian Government Housing Dataset (AGHDS)	The Commonwealth Housing Dataset provides point in time data for income units in receipt of Centrelink payments. It includes protected information collected under social security and family assistance law about the type of housing, amount of weekly income, payment type and other characteristics of income units. Data are classified according to their ARIA classification, as well being able to be drilled down to SA2 and SA3 level.	

Attachment B: Closing the Gap Clearinghouse

The Closing the Gap Clearinghouse is an online collection of research and evaluation evidence on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage across the seven building blocks that support COAGs closing the gap targets. The resources of the Clearinghouse are designed to ensure that evidence-based resources are readily available to support the needs of Commonwealth, state and territory policy makers, service providers and the agencies they fund and the wider community.

The Clearinghouse has commissioned and written different types of publications that synthesise the research and evaluation evidence about what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage:

- *Issues papers:* In-depth papers that synthesise the evidence on a particular topic that is central to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.
- *Resource sheets:* Concise summaries of what works to address specific issues relevant to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.
- *Key learnings and gaps in the evidence:* An annual report that summarises the evidence on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage, and identifies gaps in the evidence.

The Clearinghouse also supports 2 collections of research and evaluation evidence:

- *Assessed collection*: An online collection of key research and evaluations the collection currently contains the key research and evaluation evidence identified by Clearinghouse authors as important contributions to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage. The collection is categorised by key components of the research including subject area, research methodology, geographic location of the research, type of study population.
- *Research and Evaluation Register*: An online collection of government research and evaluations relevant to Indigenous disadvantage. Information on the register includes the title of the research, type of study, relevant building block, date finished and whether it is available to the public.

Relevant Clearinghouse publications:

- What works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage: key learnings and gaps in the evidence, 2011-12 (October 2013)
- Review of early childhood parenting, education and health intervention programs for Indigenous children and families in Australia (7 February 2013)
- Exploring economic participation - overcoming economic disadvantage for Indigenous Australians through education and training (28 February 2013)
- Improving employment rates for Indigenous people with a disability (28 February 2013)
- What works? A review of actions addressing the social and economic determinants of Indigenous health (December 2013)
- Improving the early life outcomes of Indigenous children: implementing early childhood development at the local level (December 2013)
- Engaging with Indigenous Australia: exploring the conditions for effective relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (October 2013)
- Engagement with Indigenous communities in key sectors (October 2013)
- Mentoring programs for Indigenous youth at risk (September 2013)

- Trauma-informed services and trauma-specific care for Indigenous Australian children (July 2013)
- Programs to improve interpersonal safety in Indigenous communities: evidence and issues (July 2013)
- Constructing and maintaining houses (May 2012)
- Increasing Indigenous employment rates (March 2012)
- Effective practices for service delivery coordination in Indigenous communities (December 2011)
- School readiness: what does it mean for Indigenous children, families, schools and communities? (December 2010)
- School attendance and retention of Indigenous Australian students (September 2010)
- Pathways for Indigenous school leavers to undertake training or gain employment (June 2010)