



FACT SHEET

Monitoring and evaluation

What the Australian Government is doing

The Government is committed to improving chronic disease outcomes for Indigenous peoples and will monitor and evaluate its contribution to the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous health outcomes.

How this will work

- The Government will fund a number of related elements that will work together to monitor implementation and assess the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package's effectiveness in achieving the Closing the Gap targets.
- The elements are:
 - the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework to guide the package's monitoring and evaluation activities;
 - monitoring up to 32 sentinel sites to provide information about implementation and early outcomes;
 - introducing a web-based system for Indigenous health services to use in reporting data;
 - use of national survey information;
 - ongoing analysis and reporting by the Department of Health and Ageing including, for example, analysis of MBS and PBS data; and
 - an overall evaluation of the package to be undertaken in 2012.

How this will help Indigenous Australians

- Monitoring and early evaluation of the program through sentinel sites, as well as national survey and other information will help determine how well the package is achieving its objectives of:
 - reducing chronic disease risk factors such as smoking, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity;
 - identifying chronic disease as early as possible;
 - providing effective treatment and ongoing management of chronic disease; and
 - building the workforce and the primary health care system's capacity to more effectively address chronic disease in the Indigenous population.
- The overall evaluation will draw on data from the other measure elements and will demonstrate progress towards closing the life expectancy gap.

Who will implement the new approach

- The Department of Health and Ageing is developing the monitoring and evaluation framework in 2009-10.
- The Department will roll out the sentinel sites in 2010 and they will operate until the end of 2012.
- The Department will roll out to service providers a web-based reporting system over a three year period, based on the reporting tool used by the Healthy for Life program. Indigenous-specific primary health care services will report on key performance indicator (KPI) data through this system. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will act as national data custodian.
- The Department is assisting in the development of an enhanced Australian Health Survey to collect data on key risk factors such as nutrition, physical activity, obesity and sugar levels.