

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**Annual report
1999–00**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra
AIHW cat. no. AUS 20

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Information Officer: Margaret Fisher
Telephone: (02) 6244 1033
Facsimile: (02) 6244 1111

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The Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
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 2000.

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* (CAC Act).

In accordance with the requirements of Section 9 of the CAC Act, the report was endorsed on 7 September 2000 at a meeting of directors responsible for the preparation and content of the report of operations in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders.

Yours sincerely

Professor Janice Reid
Chairperson of the Board
13 September 2000

For health and welfare
statistics and information

6A Traeger Court
Fern Hill Park
Bruce ACT

GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601

> Phone 02 6244 1000
Fax 02 6244 1299
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Foreword

From the Chairperson, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

This millennial issue of the AIHW annual report confirms the Institute's continuing leadership in the development of national health, housing and community services statistics and information.

It has been a record year in terms of output, and the volume of contract work being undertaken by the Institute has increased compared with the previous year. The Board is proud to have had significant input in guiding this business expansion.

We are also pleased to have contributed to the development of the two flagship AIHW reports, *Australia's Welfare 1999* and *Australia's Health 2000*, both of which were released during the year.

The Board also supports the Institute's continuing involvement in reports that bridge traditional notions of health and welfare, while at the same time highlighting issues surrounding vulnerable populations within our society. Two examples of such reports in the past year have been *Australia's Young People: Their Health and Wellbeing 1999*, and *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 1999*.

This year's AIHW annual report contains a feature chapter on data security. Data security, and related issues of privacy and confidentiality, are extremely important to us, as the chapter makes clear. They are cornerstones of the Institute and the way we do business with our clients and data providers, as well as meeting our obligations to the Australian community.

In addition to the protective legislative provisions of our Act, there are the ethical protections afforded by the Institute's Health and Welfare Ethics Committees.

Although we protect our data holdings in important ways, we are also committed to publishing the results of all of our work in the interests of accessibility and improving the health and welfare of Australians. We also have provisions for releasing health data to bona fide medical researchers outside the Institute, but only under strict conditions, and with Ethics Committee approval.

We have other values too. Values such as objectivity, independence, client focus, and our commitment to high quality and to our staff. Add in our national focus plus our track record, and this is a potent mix indeed that we can offer the community, and our current and prospective clients.

The total mix is unique in the health, housing and community services statistics and information fields. All of us on the AIHW Board are very happy to be part of it.

Professor Janice Reid, AM



AIHW mission

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

To improve the health and well-being of Australians, we inform community discussion and decision-making through national leadership in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

AIHW values

We follow these values:

Objectivity

- Being objective, impartial and open in our methods, analysis and presentation.

Independence

- Ensuring that our work always accords with our mission.

Quality

- Following high statistical and ethical standards in all our work.

Respect

- Ensuring the confidentiality of information provided to us.
- Respecting the privacy and sensitivity of individuals and groups.
- Recognising the efforts and expertise of our partners and data providers.

Accessibility

- Making our work accessible to all Australians in a timely manner.

Client focus

- Learning the varied needs and views of our clients, to ensure the relevance of our work.

People

- Respecting and promoting the creativity, expertise and well-being of those we work with.

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