



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE
of HEALTH
and WELFARE



ANNUAL
REPORT

2002-03



AIHW
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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The Institute is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency, and is part of the Commonwealth Health and Ageing portfolio.

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Senator the Hon. Tony Abbott
Minister for Health and Ageing
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 2003.

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 2 October at a meeting of directors responsible for the preparation and content of the report of operations, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sandra Hacker
Chairperson of the Board

7 October 2003

For health and welfare
statistics and information

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AIHW Mission

Better health and wellbeing for Australians through better health and welfare statistics and information.

We inform community discussion and decision-making through national leadership and collaboration in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

The Institute's values

We uphold these values:

- ACCESSIBILITY** making our work available to all Australians
- EXPERTISE** applying specialised knowledge and high standards to our products and services
- INDEPENDENCE** ensuring our work is objective, impartial and reflects our mission
- INNOVATION** showing curiosity, creativity and resourcefulness in our work
- PRIVACY** respecting and safeguarding the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of those who provide the information we use
- RESPONSIVENESS** seeking and responding to the needs of all those who supply or use our data and information

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Highlights from the AIHW Chair

I am proud to be able to report that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has had its busiest and most productive year on record by way of published reports. The increased output reflects a substantial rise in the number of small publications in response to Board, client and funder demands. More than 50% of publications were funded by external clients, reflecting increasing business activity between the AIHW and its major stakeholders.

Production of such a volume and quality of reports could not be achieved without analytical and production processes of a high professional standard. I take pleasure in this opportunity to congratulate staff for their commitment to the mission of the AIHW.

The AIHW's work program is guided by the AIHW Board, whose membership includes representatives of key departments, and by the requirements of the respective national health, housing and community services information agreements.

The Institute works consultatively on all its projects. For major publications such as *Australian Hospital Statistics 2001–02*, an advisory group comprising representatives from across the broad range of stakeholders is established to monitor progress and advise on the content of the report. Where the report involves a number of key interest groups, there is negotiation and discussion between parties throughout the process.

Reports containing original findings and newly released statistics are refereed. The AIHW's Board is included in the development of our flagship publications through lively discussions at meetings regarding structure, concepts and content, and through refereeing chapters.

To gain a snapshot of how our publications are received by stakeholders and clients, we conducted an Internet-based client satisfaction survey this year. Responses from this survey were overwhelmingly positive, indicating that we are releasing into the public arena useful statistics that inform public policy and debate.

In October 2002, the AIHW, as the Australian Collaborating Centre, hosted the 2002 meeting of Heads of World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications. The Heads of Centres meet annually to direct work on endorsing and implementing International Classifications and thus ensure consistent international data are available on the health of the populations of member countries. The theme of the program was 'Improving health systems through quality data'.



The two core components of the Family of International Classifications are:

- The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10)
- The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Such partnerships recognise the AIHW as a key member of select organisations that produce quality statistical information to enhance the health and wellbeing of national populations. It was pleasing to see such an attendance with 90 delegates from 21 countries attending the meeting.

This year saw the previous collaborative arrangements on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare statistics come to a close. The arrangements were a driving force for major gains in this crucial field. In acknowledgment of the need to maintain and build on these gains, the AIHW established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Unit dedicated to ensuring the valuable work in this vital area continues.

The Corporate Plan 2003–06 was released following a planning process that commenced early in 2002. There are some important changes that demonstrate the current role of the AIHW, the scope of our work and our place in our strategic environment. The refined mission for the AIHW is *Better health and wellbeing for Australians through better health and welfare statistics and information*. The Plan outlines the values that are important to the AIHW and relevant in the current environment. Changes acknowledge the heightened privacy environment in which we operate and draw on my encouragement of the AIHW to demonstrate fearless curiosity in pursuing its goals.



Dr Sandra Hacker
Board Chair

