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# F Community services sector overview

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### **Attachment tables**

There are no Community services attachment tables throughout this Indigenous Compendium.

The Community services sector overview in the *Report on Government Services 2014* (2014 Report) provides an introduction to the Aged care services (chapter 13), Services for people with disability (chapter 14), Child protection services (chapter 15) and Youth justice services (chapter 16) chapters of this Report. It provides an overview of the community services sector, presenting both contextual information and high level performance information. Data are reported for Indigenous people for a subset of the performance indicators reported in that sector overview — those data are compiled and presented here.

### **Cross-cutting and interface issues**

#### *Community services pathways*

Although this Report discusses three areas of community services in separate chapters, it is recognised that there are many linkages between different community services. Governments are increasingly emphasising the need for integrated, client centred community services.

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Many community services are linked by the provision of different services to individuals at different stages of life. Other services are not as strictly, or not at all, age-specific, and some individuals may receive multiple services at the same time — for example, a child who is in receipt of youth justice services together with homelessness, child protection or disability services. Disability services can continue throughout an individual’s lifetime and overlap with the provision of aged care services.

The sequence of interventions or services can be referred to as ‘pathways’ of community service provision. However, there is a paucity of information on the patterns of access by individuals to the range of community services, either concurrently or in succession over a lifetime. A greater understanding of the links between the use of various community services, the nature of these links, and whether interventions in one area of service provision result in reduced need for other services, will help to inform government social policy.

An example of relevant research includes:

- a longitudinal study of Indigenous children (*Footprints In Time*) into the links between early childhood experiences and later life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, covering areas such as health, culture, education, housing and family relationships (FaHCSIA 2008).

### **Basic Community Care (HACC) across the community services sector**

Historically within the Report, HACC services have been included in the Aged care services chapter, but the scope of the program is wider than aged care. Provision of HACC services is primarily to older people, but younger people with disability and carers are also recipients of HACC assistance.

HACC data are reported in the Aged care services chapter for people aged 65 years and older and Indigenous Australians 50–64 years. Service use information on HACC clients outside the Aged care services chapter’s target (people aged 64 years and under and Indigenous Australians aged 49 years and under) are reported in the Disability services chapter.

The Australian, State and Territory governments committed to the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) on 2 August 2011. The NHRA reaffirmed previous commitments on health and aged care (and their implications for services for people with disability) under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement and the Heads of Agreement — National Health Reform.

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Changes to roles and responsibilities under the National Health Reform Agreement are aimed at creating a national aged care system and a national disability services system. Under the National Health Reform Agreement:

- the Australian Government is responsible for:
  - regulating packaged community (CACP, EACH and EACH-D) and residential aged care
  - funding packaged community and residential aged care for people aged 65 years or over (50 years or over for Indigenous Australians)
  - funding and regulating basic community care services (previously delivered under the HACC program) for people aged 65 years or over (50 years or over for Indigenous Australians)
  - funding specialist disability services delivered by the State and Territory governments under the NDA for people aged 65 years or over (50 years or over for Indigenous Australians).
- the State and Territory governments are responsible for:
  - regulating specialist disability services delivered under the NDA
  - funding and regulating basic community care services (previously delivered under the HACC program) for people aged under 65 years, except for Indigenous Australians aged 50 years or over
  - funding packaged community (CACP, EACH and EACH-D) and residential aged care for people aged under 65 years, except for Indigenous Australians aged 50 years or over.

The basic community care reforms (HACC reforms) occurred over two phases (except in Victoria and WA). On 1 July 2011, the Australian Government assumed funding and policy responsibility for basic community care services for people aged 65 years or over (50 years or over for Indigenous Australians), and on 1 July 2012 they also assumed operational responsibility for these services. On 1 July 2011, State and Territory governments (except in Victoria and WA) assumed full funding and program responsibility for basic community care services provided to younger people aged under 65 years (or under the age of 50 for Indigenous Australians).

The changes to roles and responsibilities for basic community care, aged care and specialist disability services do not apply to Victoria and WA. In these states, basic community care continues to be delivered under HACC as a joint Australian and State governments' funded program. The Australian Government and the Victorian and WA governments have maintained bilateral agreements for that purpose.

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## **Indigenous data in the Community services sector overview**

The Community services sector overview in the 2014 Report contains no specific data items on Indigenous people.

Indigenous reporting on service-specific performance indicator frameworks for aged care services (chapter 13), services for people with disability (chapter 14) child protection services (chapter 15) and youth justice services (chapter 16) are in the subsequent chapters of this Compendium.

## **References**

FaHCSIA (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) 2008, *Research News*, Issue 31, Canberra.