

The draft Australian Mental Health Care Classification – Public Consultation paper 2

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) has released the draft of the first version of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC). IHPA is seeking the views of stakeholders through a public consultation process from 10 November 2015 to 18 December 2015.

Mental Health Australia is working with IHPA to engage a broader range of stakeholders from the mental health care sector to contribute to the implementation and ongoing refinement of the AMHCC. There are both challenges and opportunities in developing a classification and it is essential that all stakeholders from across the sector provide input into this significant policy reform. Mental Health Australia hopes to continue to engage with IHPA to promote shared understanding and support the mental health sector in achieving the successful implementation of a truly representative AMHCC.

Background

The AMHCC aims to improve the way that mental health care services can be classified, counted and costed. It will also help to improve the sector's understanding of what, where and how services are provided. This will increase transparency at a national level and provide support for new models of mental health care.

The first version of this consumer level classification is a simple design that will be built upon in further refinements. It is IHPA's intention that into the future the classification will be able to be used by all mental health care services, using data across settings including admitted, non-admitted, public community mental health care and community managed/non-government organisations.

In January 2015 IHPA conducted the first round of consultation on the development of the AMHCC. This consultation sought the mental health care sector's views on a proposed structure and approach to the development of the classification. IHPA's first [consultation paper](#) provided information on the role of IHPA and how and why the classification has been developed.

[Submissions to this first round of consultation](#) were received from a wide range of stakeholders, covering perspectives from the non-government sector and allied health professions through to the medical colleges and state governments. [Fact Sheet 2: Development of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification – Public Consultation paper 1](#) summarises the issues and themes covered in the submissions.



From a proposed classification framework to the draft AMHCC.

Throughout 2015 IHPA has completed a number of steps to produce the draft AMHCC. In the first round of consultation IHPA set out:

- the definition of mental health care services used to establish which services were in scope for the classification;
- a proposed classification framework;
- what data would be collected under the framework – the Activity Based Funding Mental Health Care Data Set Specification (ABF MHC DSS) 2015-16; and
- identified cost drivers for mental health care which were being tested in a national costing study.

The costing study was undertaken across twenty six public and private mental health services. The classification has been built on the data captured in the costing study and informed by clinical advice, an expert reference group and data specialists.

The costing study delivered the most comprehensive and largest set of data on mental health care services in the public setting to date, however it was not possible to collect enough information on all data elements in this one off study. Regular collection of the ABF MHC DSS by states and territories will help to build the available data on mental health services and inform IHPA's future revisions of the AMHCC.

Through October and November 2015 IHPA tested the draft AMHCC through a pilot in four health services in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. In addition to testing the face validity of the AMHCC, the pilot also tested the AMHCC supporting materials ahead of implementation in 2016.

Following the pilot and considering responses from the public consultation process the AMHCC will be refined in consultation with key stakeholders before implementation from 1 July 2016.

Areas for development

The draft AMHCC has been developed using the costing study data, which did not include data from community managed mental health care services. However the development and refinement of a classification system is an ongoing process, and it is anticipated that future iterations of the AMHCC will aim to cover a broader scope of services in order to ensure relevance for a greater range of people, domains and services beyond ABF. IHPA envisages the need to conduct further investigation with the community managed mental health sector to gather information to help inform the development of the classification and ensure its meaningful implementation.

In 2016, IHPA will consider the next steps to inform the broadening of the AMHCC beyond services in scope for ABF, with additional work to be undertaken in 2016 and 2017 on:

- targeted consultation with the child and adolescent mental health sector;
- consideration of a one-off costing study in relation to older persons' community mental health services, noting that some additional data is expected to be captured through the AMHCC pilot;
- the most appropriate approach for the residential branch of the AMHCC;
- the most appropriate next steps to inform the broadening of the AMHCC beyond services in scope for Activity Based Funding;



- consideration of how clinical complexity and comorbidities including significant chronic physical health comorbidities can best be identified for use in the AMHCC; and
- an inter-rater reliability study on phase of care.

Consultation opportunities

IHPA has commenced the second period of consultation for the development of the AMHCC and requires submissions to be completed by **COB 18 December 2015**. Information about the submission process is available through: https://consultation.ihpa.gov.au/mental-health-care/amhcc/consult_view.

Jurisdictions, the community sector, peak bodies, private healthcare providers, other key stakeholders and members of the general public are encouraged to provide a submission.

Full details for the submission process can be found on IHPA's online portal: <https://consultation.ihpa.gov.au/>

