



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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Inquiry into the funding and operation of the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare conducts work and publishes information relevant to the terms of reference for the above inquiry. Our past and present work program may be particularly informative in relation to the first three terms of reference, namely:

- (a) an examination of the intent and effect of the three CSTDAs to date;
- (b) the appropriateness or otherwise of current Commonwealth/State/Territory joint funding arrangements, including an analysis of levels of unmet needs and, in particular, the unmet need for accommodation services and support; and
- (c) an examination of the ageing/disability interface with respect to health, aged care and other services, including the problems of jurisdictional overlap and inefficiency.

(a) Effect of CSTDA

The AIHW has been the national coordinator for the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set (CSTDA NMDS) collection since it commenced in 1994. The CSTDA NMDS collections produce information about services provided or funded by governments under the CSTDA and the people accessing these services. The CSTDA NMDS collection therefore provides an important mechanism for monitoring the effect of the CSTDA. For the latest publication on the CSTDA NMDS please see *Disability support services 2003–04*. Data from the 2004–05 CSTDA NMDS collection will be published on 31 August 2006.

(b) Unmet need for disability services

The AIHW, in conjunction with the National Disability Administrators, has conducted studies into need and unmet need for disability services in 1995, 1997, 2001. The objectives of the 2001 study, *Unmet need for disability services: effectiveness of funding and remaining shortfalls*, were to:

- Assess the effectiveness of unmet need funding in reducing unmet need for disability services by quantifying and describing the additional services provided as a result of unmet need funding and, wherever possible, documenting the impact of these services for individuals receiving support.
- Identify any remaining unmet need for disability accommodation, in-home support, day programs, respite services, and disability employment services, to obtain an understanding of current shortfalls.

The project methodology involved synthesising information from state and territory governments, the (then) Commonwealth State Disability Agreement Minimum Data Set (CSDA MDS), population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, qualitative information gathered through discussions with peak groups and a literature search.

The AIHW, in conjunction with the National Disability Administrators, is about to commence a project that will update much of the analysis from the 2001 study, using the latest available data. A report on this project is due for publication in early 2007.

(c) Ageing and disability interface

A number of AIHW reports touch on issues surrounding the interface between aged care and disability services. These include the 2001 study *Unmet need for disability services: effectiveness of funding and remaining shortfalls* and the forthcoming report, *National evaluation of the Aged Care Innovative Pool Disability Aged Care Interface Pilot*.

One of the limitations faced in exploring interface issues is that data collections are generally program specific. In 2004, the Institute completed some exploratory work around the interface between residential aged care and hospitals (*Linking hospital morbidity and residential aged care data: examining matching due to chance*), which illustrated the potential for data linkage to assist in exploring these issues further. The AIHW has also established a Community Services Integration and Linkage Unit, which specialises in developing protocols for and conducting such linkage work.

For copies of all noted AIHW reports please visit <http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/publications.cfm> or <http://www.aihw.gov.au/agedcare/publications/index.cfm>.

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Yours sincerely

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