Health Outcomes and Well-Being Framework

Consistent with its term of reference to provide advice on implementation of the Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 -2022, the HIRC provided advice to the Minister for Health and the Secretary, Department of Health on the development and implementation of a Health Outcomes and Well-being Framework.

What is the Health Outcomes and Well-Being Framework?

The HIRC has advised that the Health Outcomes and Well-being Framework (the *Framework*) be a tool designed to report the health and well-being outcomes of Victorians. The *Framework* is proposed to be only one of many tools used to measure the performance of the health system and its components, however its unique focus is the measurement of *outcomes* as they relate to health status and well-being. The *Framework* responds to the Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022 (VPHF)[1] priority area of "increasing accountability and transparency".

As proposed, the *Framework* is a mechanism for:
- helping to understand how well the health system is performing in relation to its purpose and priority outcomes (including patient experiences, efficiency and effectiveness);
- signalling the need for and driving performance improvement;
- helping to monitor the impacts of improvement efforts over time;
- improving transparency, accountability and value of the health system.

As proposed, the *Framework* cascades from the overall system purpose (to enable all Victorians to experience optimised health and well-being) to two high-level outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: Optimised healthy life, (e.g. reduced days of disability and years of life lost, health quality as well as length of life and patient experience of care)

OUTCOME 2: Optimised system outcomes, productivity, and sustainability (value for money).

Within the *Framework,* the two higher-level outcomes have a number of component parts, each of which has one or more interim indicators reported against it. The *Framework* includes the measurement of patient experience, health outcomes (with a specific focus on quality and safety), efficiency and effectiveness. It has been designed so it will not generate any unnecessary additional data burden and provides a framework for coordinating existing reporting processes (both state and national).

Why an interim Framework

If the Framework were to be adopted, the HIRC has recommended implementation commence with an *Interim Framework*. Measurement of outcome in the Victorian healthcare system is relatively immature, with only a few outcome measures that are attributable to the performance of the health system (and its related components) alone. Whilst further work occurs on development of outcome measures, the HIRC advised that an interim framework (with interim measures) could be established.

---

[1] Department of Health, Victoria (2011) *Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 - 2022: Metropolitan Health Plan*

The selection of interim indicators proposed for inclusion in the *Interim Framework* took into account the interaction between health outcomes, determinants of health and system performance, and the current availability of measurement data. The proposed interim measures are a collection of relevant measures already being collected and reported through various arrangements within Victoria or by Victoria at a national level. In selecting the proposed interim indicators, the following criteria were considered:

- o Technical accuracy and usefulness – including the availability and quality of data
- o Validity and reliability – that they are theoretically sound and linked directly to our overall health objectives and outcomes
- o Transparency and utility of meaning – that they align with publicly understood concepts and they can readily be introduced.

How could the *Framework* be implemented?

The HIRC has advised that the *Framework* could be implemented with interim measures, with further measures developed and implemented over time. An expert, cross-sector advisory board should oversee implementation and further development of the *Framework* and measures, and to provide advice on how the measures can be incorporated into system performance monitoring and management.