



28 March 2023

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Via email: CQR@safetyandquality.gov.au

National arrangements for clinical quality registries

Consultation: Framework for Australian clinical quality registries, Second Edition

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries (CQRs), Second Edition (the Framework).

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA) is the national peak organisation working to promote the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and communities. LHA is uniquely placed with a diverse membership that spans across states and territories, and includes LGBTIQ+ community-controlled health organisations, LGBTIQ+ community groups and state and territory peak bodies, service providers, researchers and individuals.

LHA notes the recognition that “Australian national CQRs should be designed in partnership with consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and linguistically diverse communities to ensure each component of the collected data contributes to our understanding of the benefit and cost-effectiveness of treatment and care from their perspectives and to ensure they receive information in a way that is appropriate for them.”¹

LGBTIQ+ people are identified as a priority population in a range of national health and wellbeing strategies, including the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030², National Men’s Health Strategy³, National Women’s Health Strategy⁴, National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People⁵, National Drug Strategy⁶ and National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan⁷.

¹ Page 2, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Framework for Australian clinical quality registries - a national standard for clinical safety and quality data collections and reporting Second Edition. Sydney. ACSQHC, December 2022, referencing the NSQHS Standards Action Partnering with Consumers.

² <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-preventive-health-strategy-2021-2030>.

³ <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/05/national-men-s-health-strategy-2020-2030.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-womens-health-strategy-2020-2030>.

⁵ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-action-plan-for-the-health-of-children-and-young-people-2020-2030>.

⁶ <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-drug-strategy-2017-2026.pdf>.

⁷ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/the-australian-governments-national-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-plan>.



LGBTIQ+ people have poorer health outcomes than the broader community, particularly regarding mental health and suicide, some cancers, and alcohol and other drugs use. LGBTIQ+ people are less likely to access health services due to experiences of stigma and discrimination.

Current data collection, including national and jurisdictional surveys, does not accurately or adequately include LGBTIQ+ people and populations. These data are critical to inform policy development and health planning. This means that LGBTIQ+ populations are routinely excluded or not adequately considered in policy and program development.

LHA requests that the Framework recognises, supports and encourages the adoption of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 Standard on Sex, Gender, Variations in Sex Characteristics, and Sexual Orientation Variables (2020 Standard).⁸

The 2020 Standard was developed in conjunction with a range of stakeholders, including LHA as part of the Sex, Sex Characteristics, Gender and Sexual Orientation Reference Group. Its purpose is to achieve consistent collection and dissemination of data relating to sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation.

The 2020 Standard uses four variables—sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation. These four variables, when cross-classified with other variables, provide comprehensive data on a particular topic, issue or population group.

The 2020 Standard still needs to be consistently embedded in government data sets, research and service level data, coroners court data to ensure crucial data on LGBTIQ+ communities is captured. Without the consistent collection of this data, it is not possible to reliably gather data on LGBTIQ+ populations or patients to assess the quality of diagnoses or interventions.

LHA recommends inclusion of LGBTIQ+ populations in the Framework as an identified priority consumer group with the need for appropriate population data collection to identify and help drive improvement in the safety and quality of LGBTIQ+ health care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Zanotto', written over a horizontal line.

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⁸ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release>