**WHO-FIC NETWORK MEETING**

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# Annual Report of the Australian Collaborating Centre 2004-2005

## Abstract

*This report describes the activities of the Australian Collaborating Centre for the year between October 2004 and October 2005*

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## Annual Report of the Australian Collaborating Centre

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is the Collaborating Centre for the WHO Family of International Classifications. ICD classification issues (mortality and morbidity) are handled by the National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH), with AIHW being a user of the classification. During the year NCCH became a collaborating unit of the Institute.

ICF, ICECI, and ICPC are managed within the Institute. This paper describes the work of the Australian Collaborating Centre (ACC) since the last Network meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in 2004.

Richard Madden, Head of the ACC, attended the annual meeting of the WHO-FIC Network in Reykjavik in October 2004. Other members of the Australian delegation were Rosemary Roberts, Sue Walker, Linda Best, Ros Madden, and Catherine Sykes.

Richard Madden was nominated to Chair the Planning committee at the 2003 Network meeting. This is the second of the two year appointment. Under his direction a WHO-FIC Business Plan was developed with contributions from many of the Collaborating Centres. A draft of the Plan was discussed at a consultative meeting in Geneva in November which Richard Madden attended.

Australia provides the Chair (Richard Madden) and Secretary (Catherine Sykes) of the Family Development Committee and members of the ACC also contribute to the activities of the Education, Implementation, Update Reference and Electronic Tools Committees and the Mortality Reference Group.

The ACC, through NCCH (Sydney), provided the Chair and secretariat support for the WHO Update Reference Committee (URC) until October 2004 when the decision to transfer the responsibility to the Canadian branch of the North American Collaborating Centre was made. In February 2005 Julie Rust joined the staff of the Canadian Institute of Health Information to make the handover. This was successfully accomplished.

Richard Madden and Catherine Sykes attended Planning Committee and Family Development Committee meetings in Bangkok in April 2005.

Sue Walker attended the Mortality Reference Group meeting on 22-22 October. Prior to this, she attended the 14th International Federation of Health Records Congress and was an invited speaker at the Institute on Classifications and Vocabularies, presenting a paper relating to the WHO Education Committee's work. The Mortality Reference Group also met in Washington on 5-6 May, preceded by a meeting of the Mortality ICE planning committee.

Sue Walker represented the ACC at MRG and Education committee meetings, Washington, May 2005. In addition to regular teleconferences, the WHO-FIC Education committee met in Washington from 9-11 May. Included was the first face to face meeting of the Joint WHO-FIC-IFHRO committee which made significant progress work towards the international certification program for coders.

## International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

The Australian Centre has continued with two interacting streams of work in 2004–05, an international and a national stream. These support each other and will result in two sets of mutually supporting products, serving both national and international purposes.

### National Stream

The major emphasis of ACC work in the last year has continued to be in education and dissemination of ICF. For instance:

- Many talks and presentations have been given by ACC staff on the ICF and its potential application in Australia. Agency, State and National audiences have been addressed. Appendix 1 lists the major conference publications and presentations.
- A seminar introducing senior staff in the Department of Health and Ageing to the ICF and its uses and potential uses in the health system was held in November 2005. Members of the Australian ICF Rehabilitation Collaboration and the Advisory Committee on Australian and International Disability Data were involved.
- Advice provided on data definitions and collection in the areas of: aged care; children's services; education; population surveys, and on inclusion of data on functioning for the electronic health record.
- Advice has been provided to the ABS on data definitions and collection of a module on disability for inclusion in population surveys. The national census will include questions on disability for the first time in 2006. The census question aligns with questions in the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and the Disability Services collection, thus permitting important new analyses when the data become available.
- The publication 'Disability and its relationship to health conditions and other factors' http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10082 that uses both ICF and ICD concepts in analysing population data.
- Numerous publications utilising WHO-FIC classifications have been made by members of the ACC. Other publications may be found at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/criteria//subject/7
- Responding to numerous public inquiries.
- Over the year it has become apparent that relevant policy makers and information systems developers are now more aware of the ICF, its contents and its relevance to a wide range of fields. As a result the ACC has planned an ICF User Forum to be held in Sydney in February 2006. Plans are well progressed and an interesting range of national and international speakers have agreed to attend, including Dr Bedirhan Üstün from WHO.

- The ICF Australian User Guide, Version 1 was published in 2003. With increased interest in and implementation of the ICF this publication is to be updated. Work has commenced on version 2.

Data standards work is progressing, including the development of an ICF-related data capture tool:

- The Institute's electronic repository for metadata items METeOR was launched in June 2005 http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/181162 . A suite of Disability metadata items based on the ICF has been included. These are based on the data elements in the National Community Services Data Dictionary http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/9995
- The preliminary investigation to establish the need for and possible content of a module/profile of level of functioning to be used at key points in the process of care of an individual in the health system was finalised in March 2005. A second phase of the project has been funded by Australian Health Ministers. A draft data capture module is to be tested in a range of health and community service settings in the second half of 2005. The framework for the Functioning and Related Health Outcomes Module is the ICF.
- A project to enhance and harmonise existing national data on incontinence is nearing completion. The ICF framework was used to review data collections and recommend new data elements.

New analyses and studies are using the ICF:

- A Rasch analysis conducted on Australian disability services data illustrated that information on functioning was spread across all A&P domains, and that certain broad survey measures of need for personal assistance were relatively well behaved statistically (see paper by Phil Anderson listed in attached).
- An important and challenging project is being undertaken jointly with the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association, using the ICF as a key part of the conceptual framework. The objectives are to:
    - review and summarise key findings of literature about the definitions, costs and benefits of therapy and whether therapy makes a difference for people with cerebral palsy
    - identify the nature and quantify the extent of met, partially met and unmet need for therapies and equipment among people, of different ages, with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities: and
    - estimate the effects of the provision of therapy and equipment in terms of improved or maintained individual functioning and participation, at different ages, and in terms of reduced social costs of disability.

Our work since 1996 has been advised by a broadly based committee, the Advisory Committee for Australian and International Disability Data (ACAIDD). With the current work plan essentially complete it has been decided to undertake a review of

the Committee's achievements and to determine its future role. This will take place in the second half of 2005.

We continue in a very busy and challenging phase of implementation with many new possible collaborations emerging; a wider range of applications is being contemplated.

### International Stream

The Australian CC continues to be involved in discussions about the ICF international work program, and hopes that our 'two streams' approach will continue, and will promote a constructive blending of national and international work. To this end:

- Richard Madden, Phil Anderson and Catherine Sykes attended the North American Collaborating Centre ICF meeting in Rochester, Minnesota in June and presented the following papers:
- Use of ICF in health information systems and surveys. Richard Madden
- Analysis of ICF-compatible items on support needs in a national administrative dataset. Phil Anderson.
- A health outcome and functioning module: The development of a data capture tool for health information systems. Catherine Sykes.

  These can be accessed on http://www.icfconference.com/Program.htm;
- AIHW with the Australian Bureau of Statistics continues to be involved with the development of disability survey and census data items with the Washington City Group. Xingyan Wen and Ken Tallis represented the ACC at the meeting in Rio de Janeiro in September 2005.
- Members of the AIHW contribute to the work of the UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Task Force on the development of a common instrument for measuring health states.
- Catherine Sykes joined staff from WHO headquarters, the North American and Dutch Collaborating Centres and Dr Pattariya Jarutat of Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre to present a workshop on ICF for Thai health care professionals, administrators, government officials and statisticians.

## Morbidity and mortality

Morbidity and mortality classifications are managed by NCCH. In Sydney Kerry Innes is Acting Director and NCCH Brisbane headed by Sue Walker, Associate Director.

Dr Richard Madden has been appointed as NCCH Director. Dr Madden is currently the Director of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and head of the Australian Collaborating Centre and takes up this new position in January 2006.

NCCH Brisbane has continued its education, research and mortality classification work over the twelve months since the Reykjavik meeting.

### ICD-10-AM

The Fourth Edition of ICD-10-AM was implemented on 1 July 2004 and will be used in Australia until June 2006. The Fourth Edition is available in hard copy (5 volumes) and as an electronic book (eBook). Changes in this edition include 123 new disease codes in areas such as musculoskeletal, diabetes, mental health, birth defects and venom immunotherapy. WHO-FIC recommended ICD-10 major and minor updates from 2001 (Washington) and 2002 (Brisbane) were incorporated into this edition. In regard to interventions, 307 new codes were added. The vital statistics for ICD-10-AM Fourth Edition are now 16,013 valid disease codes, 6,055 intervention codes and 285 Australian Coding Standards. Of the 16,000 disease codes, 3,504 are Australian additions, mostly at the 5th character level. The ICD-10-AM Chronicle (an electronic product which describes and explains changes between ICD-10 and ICD-10-AM and its successive editions) has been updated to include editions one to four.

The content for the fifth edition of ICD-10-AM was completed in June 2005. The fifth edition will be represented as three separate products rather than as one – ICD-10-AM – as in the past.

- ICD-10-AM – Tabular list and alphabetical index for diseases
- ACHI – Australian Classification of Health Interventions – tabular list and alphabetical index of interventions
- ACS – Australian Coding Standards – national standards for the application of ICD-10-AM and ACHI codes.

A collective name for these three products has been proposed for use from 2006: Australian Health Classification System

### Education

- Australian education workshops for each edition of ICD-10-AM/ACHI involve pre-implementation workshops and post-implementation workshops. Post-implementation workshops for the Fourth Edition are currently running around Australia and pre-implementation workshops for the Fifth Edition will run from April – Jun 2006.
- Health information systems workshop NCCH Brisbane hosted a one-day workshop on 30 November 2004 focused on health information issues in the Asia-Pacific region, conducted as a pre-conference event prior to the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) conference. Of particular note was the attendance and participation of two WHO representatives: Dr Ruth Bonita, Director of the Non Communicable Diseases Surveillance Unit and Dr Anton Fric, Regional Adviser in Health Information for SEARO.
- International Course 2005 NCCH Brisbane hosted its second international ICD-10 training course from 4-15 July 2005. Attending this year were five

participants from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, four from South Africa, one from the Kingdom of Tonga, one from Germany and one from Australia.

- Samoa Health Project Sue Walker undertook a fifteen day coding and health information management consultancy for JTAI Pty Ltd, with funds provided by AusAID. This took place in late May-mid June 2005 and consisted of assessment and advice relating to the medical record service at Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital in Apia, and conduct of medical terminology and ICD-10 (disease) and ICD-10-AM (procedure) coding training courses for Ministry of Health staff
- Kingdom of Jordan training Garry Waller conducted a consultancy in the Kingdom of Jordan from April 17 – May 9, 2005 as part of the Jordan Surveillance Project managed by the Centers for Disease Control in the USA. Garry conducted medical terminology and coding training, undertook a needs assessment to consider further training requirements and also carried out a medical records system needs assessment to help the MOH review the manner in which Jordanian Medical Record Departments (MRD) are organized and managed.
- ABS Mortality Coding Training Garry Waller conducted ICD-10 mortality coding training for staff of the ABS Health and Vitals section. The training was delivered to twelve ABS staff and included application of the ICD-10 mortality coding rules and the use of the US NCHS Medical Mortality Data System decision tables.
- Nuclear Test Participants Coding Margaret Campbell and Garry Waller completed a mortality coding exercise for the Adelaide University School of Public Health study into the Mortality and Cancer Incidence of Australian Nuclear Test Participants. The exercise involved the coding of death certificates of ex-servicemen involved in joint Australian British Nuclear tests, conducted in Australia between 1952 and 1963, who deceased prior to the development of the Australian National Death Index.
- Death Certification and Coding workshops A bid was submitted with the University of Queensland to AusAID through the Asia Public Sector Linkages Program to support development work, specifically targeting Indonesia, to assist with introducing a death registration and processing program in Java. The bid was accepted and it is likely that coding training courses will be provided in Indonesia in early 2006 by NCCH staff.

**International**

- ICD-10-AM continues to attract interest from other countries with Saudi Arabia the next country NCCH is expecting to visit for coder training in late 2005.
- New Zealand NCCH educators have also undertaken train the trainer

workshops in New Zealand where ICD-10-AM Third Edition was introduced on 1 July 2004. New Zealand is currently planning to implement ICD-10-AM Fifth Edition from July 2008 but the NCCH hopes that this decision will be changed in favour of implementing the Sixth Edition in line with Australia.

- Ireland The Republic of Ireland adopted ICD-10-AM and AR-DRG from 1 January 2005. NCCH educators assisted in a two week training exercise in Ireland in January 2005.
- Turkey NCCH is involved in an 18 month health reform project in Turkey. NCCH is assisting in ICD-10-AM evaluation and implementation plan, coding system evaluation and AR-DRG evaluation. The project began in June 2005 with the bulk of NCCH input being in the first nine months.

### Clinical Terminologies

Apart from its work on classifications, NCCH is currently involved in projects to develop clinical terminologies for community-based health, emergency departments and general practice. NCCH has been mapping various terminologies in development (e.g Australian Classification and Terminology of Community Health, Emergency Department Terminology) to SNOMED CT and, apart from its own needs to better understand SNOMED CT from a technical perspective, it is clearly timely for health informaticians to have a fuller understanding of concept-oriented clinical terminologies and their development, management and maintenance.

### International Classification Health Interventions

NCCH has produced a version of the International Classification of Health Interventions based on the Fourth Edition of the Australian Classification of Health Interventions incorporated into ICD-10-AM. NCCH website activity has been high with approximately 60 countries expressing interest.

### WHO Fellows

NCCH Brisbane has hosted a WHO Fellow for four weeks in March-April. Ms Florinda Tuvillo, Medical Records Adviser at the National Center for Health Facility Development at the Philippines Department of Health, accompanied by Dr Guillerma Manigbas from the Institute of Continuing Education in the Health Professions, De La Salle University in the Philippines, gained contemporary knowledge in coding and HIM educational techniques. Dr Manigbas' institution is to commence a Certificate Course in Health Information Management in 2005-6 in addition to the ICD-10 Training Program that was initiated in 2004-2005.

NCCH participated in a visit by a four-member delegation from Guizhou Province in China who were recipients of WHO Fellowships on Health Information Management, Primary and Community Health Care from 11-15 April 2005. Various lectures were provided to the Chinese group reflecting their areas of interest, with NCCH staff giving presentations relating to HIM and coding in

Australia and internationally.

**'Statistical Issues in Small Nations' meeting**

From 31 March-2 April, Sue Walker travelled to New Caledonia to participate in the 'Statistical Issues in Small Nations' meeting, hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in association with the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in Noumea. The meeting was attended by around 60 people, notably including national statistics officers from each island country of the Pacific. It was enlightening to hear that there are similar issues to those seen in morbidity and mortality data collections with many of the other major international and national statistical data collections (such as finance, labour force, occupational data, fisheries). All suffer to some extent from a lack of quality and timeliness, not enough effort in providing an environment conducive to the production of quality data, difficulties of getting developing countries involved in creating international classifications and difficulties in ensuring that internationally mandated classifications also meet local needs. Sue presented a paper relating to the work of the WHO-FIC Education committee regarding support for coders internationally.

**Research and Development**

- External Cause research NCCH Brisbane is the recipient of a competitive research grant for a project relating to the quality of morbidity data in the area of injury/external causes. The aim of the research is to firstly assess the specificity of coded data for external causes of injury and to identify reasons for a lack of quality in coded data. Based on these findings, a targeted educational program will be implemented for clinicians, coders, and injury researchers, to ultimately enhance the quality of national injury-related hospital morbidity data. A doctoral student is working on the project with NCCH research fellow, Dr Kirsten McKenzie.
- International collaboration Sue Walker has continued collaboration with colleagues in Taiwan (Dr Robert Lu and Dr Chieh-Ning Huang) and Sweden (Lars Age Johansson) in the writing of research papers relating to differences in death certification practices. A further research paper has been accepted for publication.

  Lu Tsung-Hsueh (Robert), Walker S, Johansson L, Huang Chieh-Ning (2005) Differences in diabetes mortality and physicians' habits in death certification between Taiwan, Australia and Sweden, International Journal of Epidemiology in press
- Asthma research The NCCH research team, headed by Kirsten McKenzie and Sue Wood conducted a research study to determine whether terminology relating to patterns and severity of asthma is used in clinical records and whether this better reflected documentation of asthma cases compared with the descriptions available in ICD-10-AM. Over 3000 asthma

records across Australia and New Zealand were extracted, asthma terminology documented and the codes assigned were recorded and analysed. There appeared to be little support for the introduction of pattern terminology into the asthma classification but severity levels were commonly documented in hospital records. The study provided evidence that the asthma terminology in the classification is outdated and not used clinically. In order to advance the changes to ICD-10-AM, the NCCH will be circulating study results more widely amongst key stakeholders in the asthma field so that experts in asthma research and clinical care can assist in deciding the next steps in relation to the classification.

## Primary Care

The AIHW General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit (GPSCU) and Family Medicine Research Centre (FMRC), University of Sydney continues to promote the ICPC-2 in the Australian environment through regular updating of its web site on information pertaining to the ICPC-2 and though regular distribution of pamphlets and other information at conferences and meetings. The Centre acts as the contact point for any enquiries regarding ICPC-2 in Australia and the Pacific Basin.

The Centre is responsible for the national general practice data collection program called BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health) and continued to use ICPC-2 for the reporting of the resulting national statistics in the areas of: patient reasons for encounter (RFEs), problems managed, therapeutic and non-pharmacological clinical treatments, referrals, pathology and imaging tests ordered.

## External Causes of Injury

The National Injury Statistics Unit, a collaborating unit of the AIHW, continued to participate in the Co-ordination and Management Group for the International Classification of External Causes of Injury. Activities during the year included initial work on a minor revision, from 1.2 to 1.3.

NISU completed a project in which the injury and external causes classifications in the fourth edition of ICD-10-AM (Chapters XIX and XX) were reviewed and proposals were made for revisions in the fifth or subsequent editions. Proposals were based on assessment of other classifications, consultation with injury surveillance and research groups in Australia and analysis of data coded to earlier editions of ICD-10-AM. This work was published as:

Henley G, Harrison JE. (2005) Potential changes to chapters XIX and XX for fifth edition ICD-10-AM. (Submission to the National Centre for Classification in Health) (AIHW cat. no. INJCAT 73) Adelaide: AIHW.

NISU participated in the first stage of a project to evaluate the quality of ICD-10-AM external cause coding of hospital data in Australia. The project, led by Dr K McKenzie of Queensland University of Technology, is partly funded by the Australian Research Council and is being done in collaboration with several State health departments.

Findings may have implications for the design of the classification, as well as for it's use and the interpretation of coded data.

McKenzie K, Waller GS, Walker S, Harrison JH, Henley GI, McClure RJ. Developing and Enhancing the Quality of National Injury-Related Hospital Morbidity Data. ARC Linkage Project LP0454849).

NISU's Director participated (electronically) in a meeting convened by Martti Virtanen in June 2005 to commence discussion of how to deal with external causes in ICD-11. Proposed design principles that emerged during the meeting were: (1) backwards comparability, at least for important categories; (2) a simple multi-axial approach should be considered and (3) needs of less-resourced nations, in many of which even basic mortality coding is lacking, should be given much attention.

## Major conference papers and presentations 2004-05

Anderson P 2005. Analysis of ICF compatible items on support needs in a national data set. Presented at the 11th Annual NACC conference on ICF: Mapping the Clinical World to ICF, Minnesota, 21-24 June 2005.

Madden R 2005. Minimum data sets: What, why, who and how? Presented at symposium on Brain injury outcomes—collaboration towards a common dataset. Transport Accident Commission Victoria. Melbourne 9 May 2005.

Madden R 2004. Disability trends and standards in Australia. Presented at seminar on Actuarial models for financing disablement benefits. ANU School of Finance and Applied Statistics and Centre for Mathematics and its Applications 22 Nov 2004.

Madden R 2004. Supporting people with disability. Presented as Lecture 10 of the Lecture Series of the Department of Family and Community Services on 29 November 2004.

Madden R 2004. International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF): its relevance to improving disability and health data. Presented to workshop on Health Information in the Asia and Pacific regions. NCCH Brisbane 30 November 2004

Madden R 2004. The ICF: what is it and why would you use it? Presentation to seminar series of the Department of Health and Ageing. 21 October 2004

Madden R 2004. Disability and ageing. Presented to Ageing and Disability workshop of National Disability Advisory Council. Canberra 15 November 2004.

Madden R 2004. The ICF: its relevance to improvements in disability and health data. Presented at the 36th Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) conference on Public Health Network and Alliances: Building Capacity in the Asia-Pacific Region, Brisbane, 30 November–3 December 2004.

Madden R and Sykes C. International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (CF) and the Functioning and related health outcomes module. Presented at PricewaterhouseCoopers workshop on Assessment of Functional Assessment. Sydney 5 October 2004.

Madden R, Madden R, Choi C, Tallis K, Wen X 2005. Use of ICF in health information systems and surveys. Presented at the 11th Annual NACC conference on ICF: Mapping the Clinical World to ICF, Minnesota, 21-24 June 2005.

Sykes C 2005. Functioning and related health outcomes module. Presented at the 11th Annual NACC conference on ICF: Mapping the Clinical World to ICF, Minnesota, 21-24 June 2005.

Sykes C 2005. Health Outcomes and Functioning Module. Presented at symposium on Brain injury outcomes—collaboration towards a common dataset. Transport Accident Commission Victoria. Melbourne 9 May 2005.

Wen X 2005. Assessing the impact of changes in survey methodologies on disability trends over time: the case of Australia. Presented at the joint Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Commission (EC) workshop on Understanding Trends in Disability Among Elderly Population and the Implications of Demographic and Non-demographic Factors for Future Health and Long-term Care Costs, Brussels, 21–22 February 2005.