WHO-FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS NETWORK MEETING 2005

Metadata standards for functioning and disability in Australia

Catherine Sykes on behalf of the ICF team
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

16-22 October
Tokyo Japan

P2-13

Abstract To convert the 'red book' (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) into data and information requires the development of metadata standards. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has developed a suite of metadata standards or data set specification to make the ICF operational in a summary module of information on functioning. METeOR Australia's online metadata registry was used.

Introduction

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a member of the Australian Family of Health and Related Classifications and is the nationally endorsed standard for statistical reporting in the area of functioning and disability. Increasingly the ICF is being used as the framework for information in Australia. Population surveys, administrative collections and, from 2006, the census all include items on functioning that are framed in ICF terms.

There is increasing recognition that to complement information on diseases information on human functioning is necessary for monitoring outcomes of health interventions and for determination of eligibility for a range of community services.

Without the framework of the ICF and a means to collect information in a consistent way there is a danger that individual program managers, funders, clinical specialists, will define functioning in relation to their particular views and perpetuate the growth in the number of incommensurable assessment tools.

To promote the quality and consistency of information on functioning and disability the AIHW has been developing a data capture module for summary information on human functioning using the ICF. To implement the data module requires consistent and standard definitions to be included in the national data dictionaries. These dictionaries are now available in an online tool METeOR.

Metadata items based on the ICF were included in the Community Services data dictionary in 1999 and 2003. The items have been re-engineered to the new version of the ISO/IEC 11179 international standard for metadata registries and endorsed as national community services data standards.

A demonstration of METeOR will accompany this poster presentation

19 & 20 October 2005 12.00-13.30

Methods & Materials

A suite of disability metadata items consistent with and based on the ICF were developed using METeOR's online processes.

METeOR is a website, supported by a database, which provides for the development, recording, progression, publication and maintenance of national metadata standards.

MET – metadata (data about data)

O – on-line

R – registry (place where items are registered)

METeOR accommodates health, community services and housing assistance sectors within a single environment, and supports the desire for metadata to be 'developed once and used often' within and across sectors.

The system adopts and implements new structures for metadata, based on the new version of the ISO/IEC 11179 international standard for metadata registries and provides on-line features for developers to 'create and submit' metadata, including considerable help and guides for users.

METeOR can be accessed at meteor.aihw.gov.au



Results

The suite of functioning and disability metadata items based on the ICF includes a data set specification for functioning and disability, five clusters of items for the components of ICF, and 73 data elements to represent the ICF at chapter level. Supporting data element concepts, value domains, object classes and properties were also developed.

Functioning and Disability DSS

1 Body functions cluster (8 data elements)
2 Body structures cluster
2.1 Body structures extent of impairment cluster (8 data elements)
2.2 Body structures location of impairment cluster (8 data elements)
2.3 Body structures nature of impairment cluster (8 data elements)
3 Activities cluster
3.1 Activity difficulty level cluster (9 data elements)
3.2 Activity need for assistance cluster (9 data elements)
4 Participation cluster
4.1 Participation extent cluster (9 data elements)
4.2 Participation satisfaction cluster (9 data elements)
5 Environmental factors cluster (5 data elements)

Conclusions

Value domains and glossary items are already endorsed for use in Community Services.

The full suite of metadata items has been submitted for endorsement for use in the health field.

Consistent data standards used across health and community services will promote understanding of person centred outcomes, cross disciplines and government programs and thus the potential to improve services to the benefit of those using them.