TOWARDS INTEGRATED AND COHERENT HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS: AN AUSTRALIAN POLICYMAKER’S PERSPECTIVE

Response to Michael Wolfson and Richard Alvarez’s presentation: Towards integrated and coherent health information systems for performance monitoring: the Canadian experience

ANDREW PODGER
SECRETARY
COMMONWEATH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE, AUSTRALIA
Australian context

- Sixth largest land mass in the world
- Population of 20 million
- Average life expectancy:
  - 76 years for males
  - 82 years for females
- 23% of residents born overseas
- Health expenditure is 8.5% of GDP
### Australian Health Performance Framework

#### A: HEALTH STATUS AND OUTCOMES

How healthy are Australians? Is it the same for everyone? Where is the most opportunity for improvement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Conditions</th>
<th>Human Function</th>
<th>Life Expectancy and Wellbeing</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of disease, disorder, injury or trauma or other health-related states.</td>
<td>Alterations to body, structure or function (impairment), activities (activity limitation) and participation (restrictions in participation).</td>
<td>Broad measures of physical, mental, and social wellbeing of individuals and other derived indicators such as Disability Adjusted Life Expectancy (DALE).</td>
<td>Age and/or condition specific mortality rates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B: Determinants of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Factors</th>
<th>Socioeconomic Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, chemical and biological factors</td>
<td>Socioeconomic factors such as education, employment and income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Capacity</th>
<th>Health Behaviours</th>
<th>Person-related Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of communities that can influence health</td>
<td>Risk factor attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and behaviours</td>
<td>Genetic related susceptibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C: Health System Performance

How well is the health system performing in delivering quality health actions to improve the health of all Australians?

Is it the same for everyone?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectiveness</th>
<th>Appropriateness</th>
<th>Efficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desired outcome achieved</td>
<td>Relevant to client's needs and based on established standards</td>
<td>Cost-effective use of resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsiveness</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client-orientated and respecting persons</td>
<td>Ability to obtain health care at the right place and time</td>
<td>Prevention or minimisation of adverse events from health action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuity</th>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uninterrupted and coordinated care</td>
<td>Individuals and services have skills and knowledge</td>
<td>Infrastructure, innovation, emerging need capacity of system or organisation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OECD Proposed Health System Performance Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average level</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health improvement/outcomes (+)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsiveness and access (+)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial contribution/health expenditure (-)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efficiency | Equity

Adapted from Murray, C.J.L and Frenk, J. (2000)
Australian Agencies and Agreements Involved in Health Information

- COMMONWEALTH AGENCIES
  - Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
  - Health Insurance Commission (HIC)
  - Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

- COMMONWEALTH AGENCIES WITH SHARED GOVERNANCE WITH THE STATES
  - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
  - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Australian Agencies and Agreements Involved in Health Information

- COMMONWEALTH/STATE AGREEMENTS
- Australian Health Care Agreements
- National Public Health Outcomes Funding Agreements
- National Health Information Agreement

- STATE AND TERRITORY AGENCIES
- State and Territory Health Authorities
- Area Health Authorities (varying arrangements in each State/Territory)
Health Performance Planning and Development Framework

Australian Health Ministers

- National Health Information Management Advisory Council
- Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC)
  - Health Connect Taskforce
  - National Health Information Management Group (NHIMG)
  - National Health Performance Committee
- National Health Performance Committee (NHPC)
HealthConnect Record

- Quality of Life Maintenance
- Family History illness indicators
- Screening & Prevention
- Immunisation
- Care & Maintenance
- Early Onset
- Remedial Maintenance
- Consumer Focus
Desirable Health Performance Indicator Characteristics

- worth measuring
- measurable for diverse populations
- understood by people who need to act
- galvanise action
- relevant to policy and practice
- measurement over time reflects results of actions
- feasible to collect and report
- data definitions comply
- facilitate benchmarking
- consistent, using established indicators where possible
THE END