World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications, Australia

ICD-11 Stakeholder Update no. 5 — January 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the Institute's ICD-11 Stakeholder Update.

We've been pretty busy since the last update, finalising the ICD-11 Roadmap (well, to the degree that a planning document is ever finalised), attending the annual WHO-FIC Network meetings in Bonn in Deutschland, and continuing with our regular work and international engagements to understand and learn from other countries' experiences implementing or preparing to implement ICD-11.

The annual WHO-FIC meetings are always a key event for us, but this year, we had an especially active agenda to pursue. Based on our experience hosting the mid-year meetings in Sydney in May, we identified a need to reform and update the WHO-FIC Network's constitutional document, the Conduct of the Network Paper. We took a new proposed draft to the Annual Meeting and got endorsement of the directions we wanted to take it in and are now finalising the detail of that for agreement in the first meeting next year.

We also, jointly with Canada, took a proposal forward to look at some ideas to streamline and optimise the current processes for consideration of proposed changes to the ICD. This is important in light of an expected increase in those proposals as countries start preparing to implement ICD-11 by doing translations, mapping exercises, and testing it on their existing classification uses—they will identify changes that need to be made. Canada and Australia will now take this forward with a small working group of interested countries to agree on some initial reforms in time for the 2024 round of proposals and develop others for implementation in subsequent rounds.

On top of that, I was elected as a Co-Chair of the Network for the next two years, which will provide an opportunity for us to take a more active role in the running of the Network and the implementation of these and other priorities.

More information about these and other activities is contained in the Update. Please let us know if you have any feedback or questions about any of it. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Stakeholder Update.
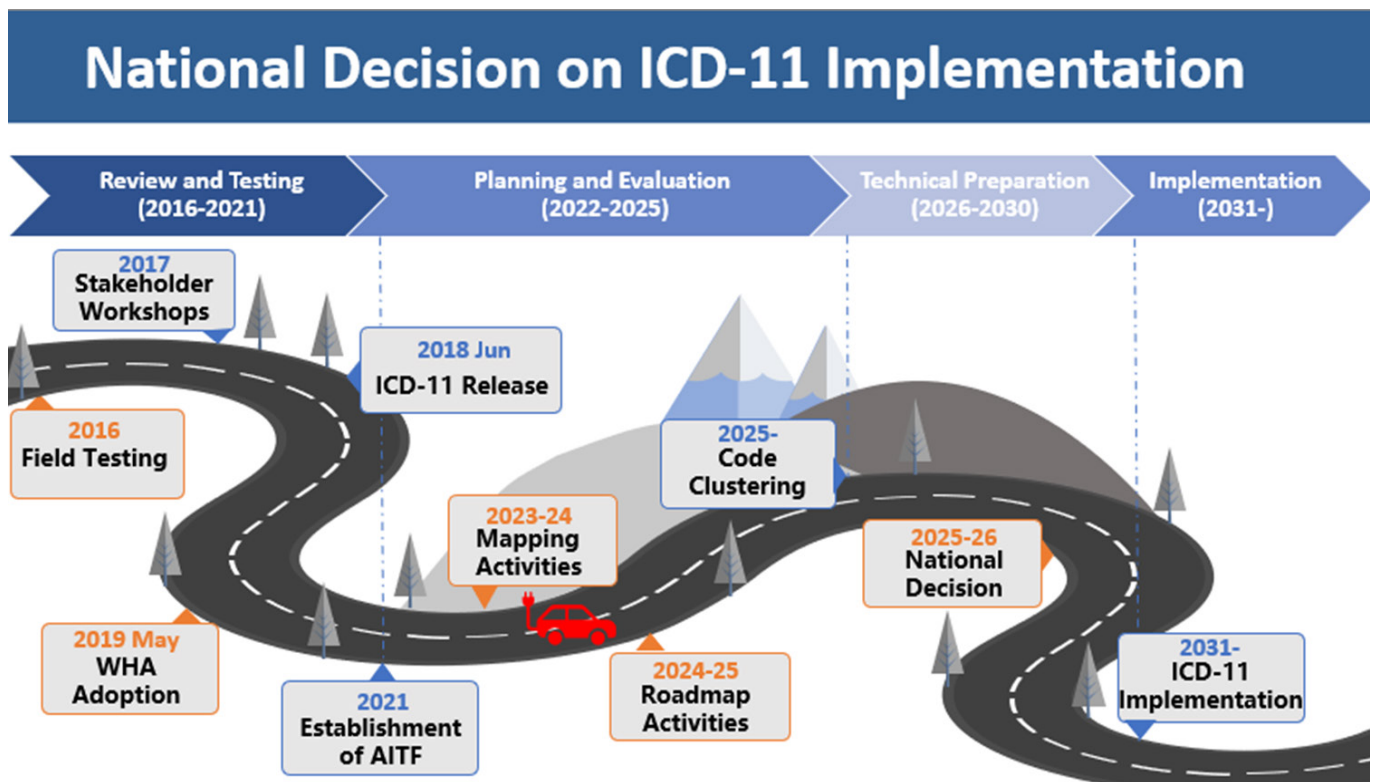
Michael Frost
Senior Executive, Primary Healthcare, Information Standards and Communications Group
Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications Australia

AIHW

International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11) Updates

ICD-11 Implementation Planning: the Australian ICD-11 Task Force

The Australian ICD-11 Task Force (AITF) has been advancing its mission since our last update in July 2023. We are pleased to announce the endorsement of the Roadmap in November 2023, marking a significant step toward the implementation of ICD-11 in Australia.

Presently, the AITF is engaged in the activities identified in the Roadmap as part of the 'planning and evaluation' phase anticipated to be finalised by the end of 2025.

Australian Decision on ICD-11 Implementation Roadmap Visual

Roadmap activities continue to progress. Advancements have been made to the following:

- Raising the profile of ICD-11:
  - The Health Data Collaboration (HDC) was updated with a paper outlining the progress towards a decision regarding ICD-11 implementation in Australia at their October meeting.
  - Enhancements to the AIHW website including updated information about ICD-11 and the AITF, as well as the introduction of a webpage dedicated to ICD-11 Frequently Asked Questions and other useful resources.
- Various mapping and dual coding studies (see *Gender Incongruence and the ICD-11* later in this newsletter) as well as the start of assessment of national and jurisdictional datasets and indicators that currently use ICD-10-AM, mapping these to ICD-11 or assessing where ICD-11 could be used to potentially fill data gaps.
- The creation of an Activity Register to record Australian ICD-11 activities undertaken, and their outcomes/ lessons learned. This will form the evidence base for the value proposition for a decision regarding implementation of ICD-11 in Australia.
- Continued international engagement with exchanging of information and progress towards ICD-11 implementation. The US has now also been included in the countries being engaged with, which includes Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Malaysia.

ICD-11 Mapping Task Force (MTF)

The MTF continues to meet regularly and is working towards validating the current WHO ICD-10 to ICD-11 maps and investigating country use cases for mapping to ICD-11. The MTF has designed a questionnaire to survey all collaborating centres (CCs)/countries to investigate mapping needs, challenges, and any projects they are doing. Development of guidance for WHO ICD-10 to ICD-11 map validation will also be done to assist countries with the mapping process.

Gender Incongruence and the ICD-11

As one of the activities on the AITF roadmap, this dual coding study is a collaboration between the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and the AIHW. The coding team and health information managers at the RCH Melbourne coded 100 patient admissions in a dual coding study of ICD-10-AM and ICD-11.

Analysis of the coded data has now started, which will review the codes applied, assess agreement between the two classifications (with the expectation there will be a shift in data from the mental health chapter to the new sexual health chapter in ICD-11), and identify any gaps in coding.

ICD-11: Did you know?

Did you know that ICD-11 has been specifically designed to be used across all sectors of the healthcare system?

- Its design aims to facilitate the capture of the entire journey of a patient's engagement with healthcare services regardless of location or service type. That means a patient can have their care followed from primary care (for example at their GP), to being admitted to hospital, to follow-up in outpatients and back to the GP.

- ICD-11 presents opportunities to modernise data recording and analysis across patient care settings for some of which structured and analysis-ready data are not currently collected.

- The improved specificity and clinical currency of codes within ICD-11 make them applicable across multiple care settings, from admitted patient care to specialty settings.

- Moreover, in areas crucial to public health, like suicide and drug related deaths, ICD-11 provides detailed constructs within the extension chapter enabling the capture of complex information, including a comprehensive drug classification and risk factors related to suicide attempts and deaths.

- Its digitally enabled features offer the potential of linking information from multiple sources, facilitating a healthcare environment where healthcare data is not just collected but connected, providing a more holistic view of patient health and healthcare services.

What are other countries doing about ICD-11 ?

In November, WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office held the last of its webinar series *Journey Towards ICD-11 in the Pacific*. These webinars were targeted to audiences in Pacific Island countries and territories in the early stages of ICD-11 consideration.

The third and last webinar focused on the use of ICD data, and featured presentations on *Applications and prospects of ICD coded data* and *Factors to consider in transition from existing systems of ICD to ICD-11*. Representatives from Ghana and China also provided informative overviews of their respective ICD-11 journeys.

Journey Towards ICD-11 in the Pacific Webinar Series

Wednesday, 15 November 2023 Pacific time*

To register: https://wpro-who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctceuqqT8jG9TsKaFySMfjhUjGn3U48vQy

WEBINAR #3 : ICD APPLICATIONS, INTRODUCTION TO WHO-FIC AND IN-DEPTH ICD-11 TRANSITION DISCUSSION

The United States

The US have begun considering ICD-11 implementation. In July 2023, the National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) released a Request for Information (RFI) containing several questions on ICD-11 for American stakeholder consideration. The Responses to the RFI are available. An expert roundtable meeting was held shortly after to consider and discuss these responses.

Several key recommendations were made, including consideration of a separate clinical linearisation for use in the US. These recommendations are of high relevance to Australia's consideration of ICD-11, including timing and method of consultation with software vendors.

Recent classification news, publications and presentations available online

- Experiences in aligning WHO SMART guidelines to classification and terminology standards
- The World Health Organization's YouTube channel for ICD-11 videos
- Clinician-rated ICD-11 trait domains and personality disorder types
- The National Center for Health Information, Kuwait has released another fantastic education video on the topic ICD-11 icons
- Dementia in the mental disorders chapter of the WHO ICD: what has been changed from ICD-10 to ICD-11?
- Chronic pain as a disease: An overview of pain diagnoses in ICD-11

For more information about ICD-11, visit the WHO's ICD-11 home page.

International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) Updates

During 2023, ICHI content alignment and harmonization with the WHO-FIC Foundation has continued. A detailed review of the ICHI Reference Guide was completed by the WHO-FIC Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) with updates made to the guidelines based on feedback received. The linkage of WHO Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation to ICHI was performed with updates to ICHI content as necessary being completed.

At the WHO-FIC Annual Meeting held in Bonn, Germany in October 2023 it was reported that, following member state consultation to be conducted during 2023/2024, ICHI will be finalised. Maintenance and updates will be made in the same way as for ICD and ICF, with an Interventions Reference Group to be established.

For more information about ICHI, visit the WHO's ICHI home page.

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Updates

The ICF continues to be harmonised into the WHO-FIC Foundation, and work continues to ensure the classification is digitalised onto the WHO-FIC platform. A new release of the ICF was announced at the WHO-FIC Annual Meetings as being scheduled for February 2024 (in conjunction with the next release of the ICD-11), which will incorporate most agreed additions and changes since the last release (2018).

There has been discussion of an adjustment of the ICF update processes to align them with the new digital mechanisms (i.e., how proposals can be put onto the platform and how they are managed). Modernisation of the ICF linearisation has been undertaken, which now has capacity to utilise synonyms and search terms to classify similar or related concepts to one code.

For more information about ICF, visit the WHO's ICF home page.

WHO-FIC Network Update

WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting

The WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting and those of the various Network committees and reference groups (CRGs) was held in Bonn, Germany from October 16-20, 2023, hosted by the German CC. The meeting was held in hybrid format, attended by 220 participants in person, and 120 participants online, from 51 countries.

The Australian (in person) delegation included all of its CRG Voting Members (6) which enabled full coverage of the Australian perspective during meeting discussions, including discussion of country modifications for ICD-11, revisions to the Conduct of the Network paper, alignment of entities across the reference classifications and more.

The meeting poster booklet is the main method of communication by the Network. It contains reports from each CC, CRG and other working groups on their activities over the past 12 months. It also includes reports on other activities undertaken by participants within the Network relating to the reference, related or derived classifications, including terminologies. The AIHW submitted two posters; on Australian ICD-11 activities (poster 304), as well as our annual report, required as part of our designation as CC.

Every two years, the Network Advisory Council holds elections for its two Co-Chairs. Council Co-Chairs must be the Heads of their Centres

and cannot hold other Co-Chair roles if elected. At the Annual Meeting in 2023, the Australian Head of Centre, Michael Frost, was elected Co-Chair, along with Keith Denny, Head of the Canadian CC. **Congratulations to Michael and Keith!** The AIHW is pleased to again have the opportunity for insight, input, and influence at the highest level of the Network.

Both chairs are already very busy in their new duties, attending not only Council meetings but the Small Executive Group monthly meetings, as well as the WHO-FIC Mapping Task Force meetings.

The ACC thanks the outgoing Co-Chairs, Ulrich Vogel (German CC) and Mika Watari (Japan CC) for their contributions to the Network during their tenure, which included navigating the Network through the COVID-19 pandemic period.

There were also social and cultural events held during the week, including a visit to Beethoven's House and a gala dinner at the "La Redoute" restaurant, where Beethoven gave several concerts for famous people of his time in the so-called "Blue Salon".

The Australian delegation held its annual 'Australian dinner' at the Rheinalm Restaurant. The Australian delegation are located in various states and territories in Australia, so it is not often we are all together in person.

Beethovenhaus

La Redoute restaurant

WHO-FIC ACC Dinner

ICD-11 Education update

The WHO, in conjunction with the EIC, has begun development of ICD-11 education modules to become available via its WHO Academy. The original Electronic Education Tool (ETool) was released in 2019 and has become out of date due to the ongoing nature of development of the Foundation and the ICD-11 Mortality and Morbidity Statistics (MMS). Subsequently, these ETool modules have been undergoing revision whilst the Academy material is being finalised.

During the EIC sessions of the Annual Meeting, a demonstration was provided of the prototype of the first WHO Academy education module. This module is anticipated to be released in early 2024.

About the WHO-FIC Network

The WHO-FIC Network consists of 23 CCs, 7 WHO CCs for Classification Scientific Support/Classification, Terminology and Standards, 2 WHO CCs for Verbal Autopsy, 8 non-government organizations in official relations with WHO, several country focal points and technical experts.

The AIHW has been designated as the WHO-FIC Australian CC since 1991 and is currently designated until 2026. Each designation period is for four years and is organised and managed via the WHO regional office – for Australia, this is the Western Pacific Regional Office in Manilla, Philippines. Most of the WHO-FIC work is through the Head Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

Australia has extensive active participation in the WHO-FIC Network CRGs, and the AIHW extends its thanks to its members for their past, present, and future involvement and expertise.

Upcoming events for 2024

Date	Event	Location	Event type
18 January	Iris-11 User Webinar	n/a	Virtual
11–12 April	Iris User Group Meeting	Bonn, Germany	Hybrid
13–17 May	WHO-FIC Network Mid-year Meetings: FDRG, MbRG and MRG	Mexico City, Mexico	Hybrid
TBC	WHO-FIC Network Mid-year Meetings: EIC and ITC	n/a	Virtual
TBC	WHO-FIC Network Mid-year Meetings: FDC and TMRG	TBC	TBC
28–31 May	PCSI Conference 2024	Bled, Slovenia	In person
October	WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting	TBC	Hybrid
28–30 October	HIMAA Conference 2024	Melbourne, Australia	In person
TBC	Health Informatics Conference	Brisbane, Australia	In person

Contact Us

The Metadata and Classifications Unit at the AIHW is the contact point for all Australian enquiries relating to the WHO-FIC Network, the Australian CC and activities relating to ICD-11 implementation in Australia.

Email us at who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au. To subscribe to this newsletter, please register here.

**Stronger evidence,
better decisions,
improved health and welfare**