

**AUSTRALIA'S FIFTH REPORT UNDER  
THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)  
2010-2014**

**Appendix 8  
Mental Health Services - Additional Information**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 2**

**I. INTRODUCTION..... 3**

**Purpose of this Appendix.....3**

**II. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES..... 4**

**Mental Health Data Sources .....4**

        National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing ..... 4

        Mental Health Services in Australia (MHSIA) ..... 4

        National Mental Health Report ..... 4

        AIHW Prisoner Health Services in Australia 2012 Bulletin ..... 4

# I. INTRODUCTION

## *Purpose of this Appendix*

1. The Australian Government is pleased to present this Appendix to Australia's fifth report under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
2. The information in this Appendix is intended to supplement the material provided in Australia's fifth report under ICESCR. Specifically, this Appendix provides additional data on the prevalence of mental health in Australia and should be read alongside the Australia's response to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' Concluding Observation 30 of 12 June 2009 (E/C.12/AUS/CO/4).

## II. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### *Mental Health Data Sources*

3. There are a number data sources on the prevalence of mental health in Australia, including the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; the Mental Health Services in Australia (MHSIA) website; the National Mental Health Report 2013; and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Prisoner Health Services in Australia 2012 Bulletin.

#### **National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing**

4. The 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing was compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This was a general household survey of the adult population aged 16-85 years. This publication provides information on the prevalence of selected lifetime and 12 month mental disorders by three major disorder groups: Anxiety disorders (e.g. Social Phobia); Affective disorders (e.g. Depression); and Substance Use disorders (e.g. Alcohol Harmful Use). It also provides information on the level of impairment, the health services used for mental health problems, physical conditions, social networks and caregiving, as well as demographic and socio-economic characteristics. A Summary of Results from this survey can be accessed online.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Mental Health Services in Australia (MHSIA)**

5. The Mental Health Services in Australia (MHSIA) website is maintained by the AIHW. The website provides an overall picture of Mental Health in Australia and the response of health and welfare services to the mental health needs in Australia. This can be accessed online.<sup>2</sup>

#### **National Mental Health Report**

6. The National Mental Health Report 2013, outlines trends by state as well as the progress of outcomes under the 4<sup>th</sup> National Mental Health Plan. This report includes the national indicator 'Percentage of people receiving mental health care' which is reported up to 2010-11. This can be accessed online.<sup>3</sup> (Data for 2012-13 is reported on the MHSIA website).

#### **AIHW Prisoner Health Services in Australia 2012 Bulletin**

7. The AIHW Prisoner Health Services in Australia 2012 Bulletin outlines the data collected on health of incarcerated prisoners and relevant health services. The Bulletin is based on data available to the AIHW and supplemented by information provided by the states and territories. This can be accessed online.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ABS, *2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results*, (Cat. No. 4326.0) available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4326.0>

<sup>2</sup> Further information available at: <https://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/home/>

<sup>3</sup> Further information available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-n-report13>

<sup>4</sup> Further information available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129548273>