



**Media release, 10 November 2015**

**IHPA releases the Draft Australian Mental Health Care Classification for public comment**

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) today released the Draft Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) for public comment.

The AMHCC is intended to improve the way that mental health care services can be classified in the admitted and community settings. It will also help to improve the sector's understanding of what, where and how services are provided.

IHPA Chair Mr Shane Solomon said that the consultation paper was an opportunity for stakeholders in the mental health care sector to engage with IHPA and contribute to the implementation and ongoing refinement of the AMHCC

The classification has been built on the data collected in IHPA's mental health costing study in which 26 mental health services sites across the country participated. Its development has been informed by clinical advice and an expert reference group of mental health care and data specialists.

"The AMHCC is a consumer level classification system that provides a simple structure to ensure flexibility for future refinements. The development of the AMHCC is timely and builds on the lessons of the past with a renewed focus and strong clinical leadership," says Mr Solomon. "This is the first step to ensure the sector has a basis to move forward with a national classification for mental health care services."

"IHPA recognises that further work is required to support the national implementation of the AMHCC," says Mr Solomon. "Feedback gathered during this public consultation will be vital to the ongoing development process."

This paper is the second in a series of public consultations to assist with developing the AMHCC. IHPA conducted a first round of public consultations on the proposed classification development in January 2015 and incorporated feedback received into the Draft AMHCC.

IHPA is seeking feedback on the Draft AMHCC by 5pm AEDT on Friday 18 December 2015. To complete a submission please visit: [www.consultation.ihpa.gov.au](http://www.consultation.ihpa.gov.au).

**About IHPA:**

IHPA is an independent government agency established under Commonwealth legislation as part of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) reached by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in August 2011.

The NHRA sets out the intention of the Australian Government and state and territory governments to work in partnership to improve health outcomes for all Australians. A major component of these reforms is the implementation of national Activity Based Funding for Australian public hospitals. IHPA undertakes reviews and updates existing classifications and is also responsible for introducing new classifications for service categories without an existing classification.

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