

CONTEXT

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) has engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) in collaboration with the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) to

undertake research on incontinence in Australia and conduct an independent evaluation of Government funded continence initiatives.

Incontinence is a common health problem and it can affect women, men, and children of all ages, physical abilities and backgrounds.

PROJECT SCOPE

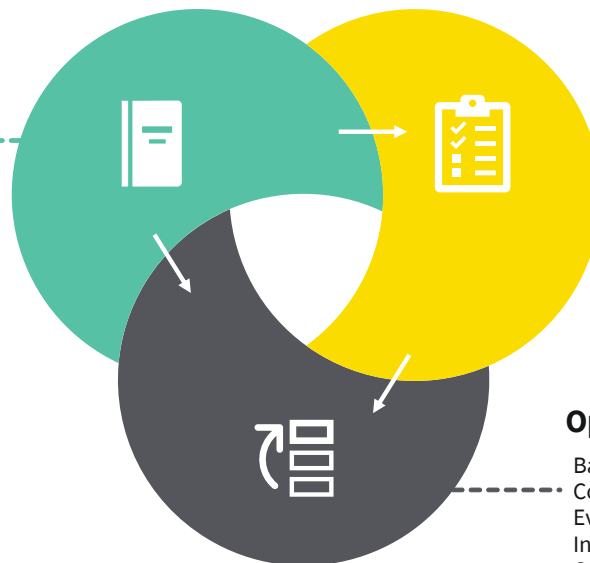
The Contenance Policy and Research Project aims to help Government set the policy direction for incontinence in Australia by providing valuable data on the cost, demographics and impacts of incontinence in Australia, and by undertaking an independent evaluation of current Government funded continence programs and services.

This project consists of three main components: 1) Contenance Research Report, 2) Evaluation of Government Contenance Initiatives and 3) Options Report, as shown in the following diagram.

Contenance Research Report

Research on:

- the prevalence and costs of incontinence in Australia
- current and projected demand for continence health services
- existing continence specialist services at a national and state/territory level



Evaluation of Government Contenance Initiatives

Assessment of:

- the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the National Contenance Program (NCP),
- how the NCP works together with other government funded continence programs

Options Report

Based on the outcomes of both the Contenance Research Report and the Evaluation of Government Contenance Initiatives.

Options for incontinence initiatives to be delivered or improved as part of updates to the National Contenance Action Plan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact HMA or the Department if you'd like further information.

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OBJECTIVES

The focus and aims of the Research Report, the Evaluation and Options reports are presented below.

Continance Research Report focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of incontinence • Overview of current initiatives, programs, and services • Demand for incontinence initiatives, programs, and services • Prevalence of incontinence and risk factors across Australia • Cost of incontinence 	Evaluation of Government Continance Initiatives aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the performance of the NCP • Assess how well the NPC is progressing towards its intended outcomes and to what extent it has achieved the intended objectives • Support the NCP to adapt and reorient according to identified lessons learned and opportunities for improvement • Assess how the NCP works together with other government funded continance programs • Evaluate the whole government response to incontinence • Inform the development of a new National Continance Action Plan 	Options analysis aims: <p>Develop options for future improvement / implementation of continance services / activities that could be delivered under the future National Continance Action Plan.</p>
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METHOD AND TIMING

The table below presents the project methodology and timing.

Date		Method	
2023	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data scoping and consultation with data custodians 	
	Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature scan 	
	Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics application 	
2024	Nov-Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation with peak bodies, professional bodies, service providers, clinicians, residential aged care facilities, Australian government and state /territory government department of health equivalents • NCP program data collection and analysis 	
	Jan-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of people affected by incontinence • Focus groups with people affected by incontinence 	
	Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates of incontinence prevalence, expenditure and demand for the research report 	
	March	Return on investment analysis of the NCP for the evaluation	
	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effectiveness analysis of continance services and aids in Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft evaluation report
	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft research report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final evaluation report
	May		
	June		
	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final research report 	
	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft options for incontinence initiatives in Australia • Stakeholder workshop to review and refine draft options 	
	Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft options paper 	
	Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final options paper 	