

## 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

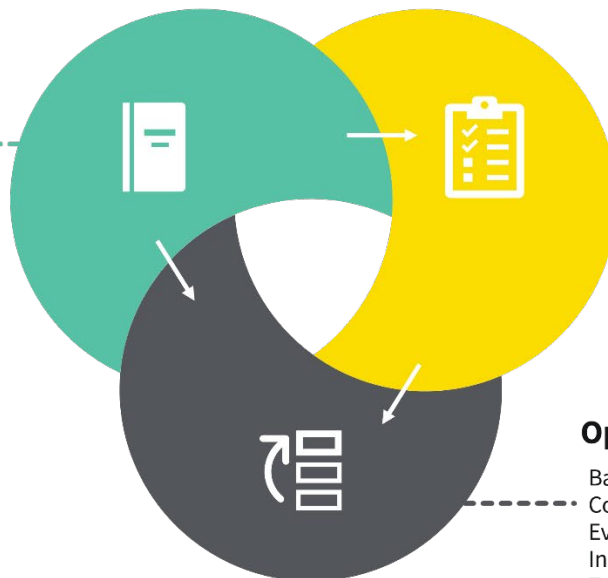
The Contenance Policy and Research Project aims to help Government set the policy direction for incontinence in Australia by providing valuable data on the cost, demographics and impacts of incontinence in Australia, and by undertaking an independent evaluation of current Government funded continence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

To inform the planning of future policy and incontinence initiatives which could be improved or delivered as part of a new 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.

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

## METHOD AND TIMING

The table below presents the project methodology and timing.

Date	Method		
2023	July	• Data scoping and consultation with data custodians	
	Sept	• Literature scan	
	Oct	• Ethics application	
2024	Nov-Dec	• <b>Stakeholder consultation</b> 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	• <b>Survey</b> of people affected by incontinence • <b>Focus groups</b> with people affected by incontinence	
	Feb	• Estimates of incontinence prevalence, expenditure and demand for the research report	
	March	• Return on investment analysis of the NCP for the evaluation	
	April	• Cost effectiveness analysis of continence services and aids in Australia	• Draft evaluation report
	April	• Draft research report	• Final evaluation report
	May		
	June		
	July	• Final research report • Develop draft options for incontinence initiatives in Australia • <b>Stakeholder workshop</b> to review and refine draft options	
	Aug	• Draft options paper	
	Sept	• Final options paper	