

Optional Common Pool of Indicators – FAQs

Will the common pool of performance indicators be compulsory?

The common pool of indicators will not be compulsory and Divisions of General Practice may choose to use an indicator where the Division considers it locally suitable and appropriate.

Divisions are free to elect to use the common pool of indicators or their own local indicators, based on their local knowledge and expertise and the needs of their communities.

Will the common pool of performance indicators have associated points? How will these be developed, approved and counted by the Department?

Points will not be allocated for the common pool of performance indicators. RIC and the Performance Working Group are currently considering how to ensure the value of local programs and activities (including those linked to the common pool of indicators) is best captured, ensuring fairness and consistency across Australia.

What advantages/disadvantages are there for Divisions to report or not report, using the common pool of indicators?

Where the Division considers it locally suitable and appropriate to use the indicators, advantages include:

- Divisions have access to robust performance indicators to assist in strategic planning and reporting processes;
- Recognition of the significant program of work not captured by the national indicators; and
- It facilitates aggregation of better information on how Divisions are making a difference in the health system.

What advantages/disadvantages are there for Divisions having programs relating to the domain areas of the common pool of performance indicators?

The inclusion of programs of activity in any of these domains should be based upon what is locally suitable and appropriate and is in accordance with local needs assessments.

Are any of the common pool of indicators going to be added to the National Performance Indicators in the future?

The initial set of National Performance Indicators has been implemented for the contract period 2005-08 and will not change. It is understood the National Performance Indicators will need to evolve over time. As such, the indicators and their requirements will be reviewed to see how well they perform and amended for the period 2008-2011 accordingly.