

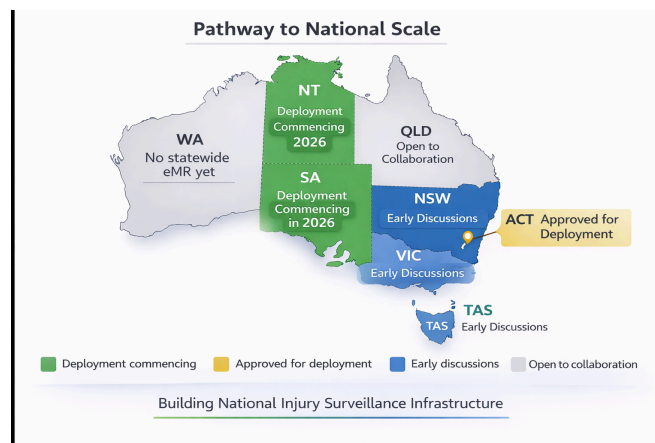


NISAR-ED NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2026

Building Australia's National Injury Surveillance Infrastructure

Australia's first coordinated Emergency Department injury surveillance infrastructure is now moving from design into implementation.

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the MRFF-funded National Injury Surveillance for Actionable Research – Emergency Department (NISAR-ED) project. You are receiving this update as a stakeholder or collaborator with an interest in injury surveillance and prevention in Australia. We will provide periodic updates on the development and implementation of Australia's national injury surveillance infrastructure, including progress across jurisdictions and opportunities for collaboration.



◆ Why this matters for injury prevention in Australia

Injury remains a leading cause of hospitalisation and death in Australia, yet Emergency Department data do not systematically capture the external cause, intent, or context of injury in a structured way.

This limits our ability to identify emerging risks, target prevention strategies, and evaluate the impact of interventions. NISAR-ED addresses this gap by transforming routinely collected ED data into actionable injury surveillance intelligence.

◆ Progress to date

Since commencing in June 2024, NISAR-ED has progressed from concept to implementation readiness, establishing the foundations for Australia's first coordinated national injury surveillance system.

- The project brings together funded national partners including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM), Monash University Accident

Research Centre (MUARC) and academic collaborators

- Extensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken across participating jurisdictions, with formal endorsement and strong senior executive and Ministerial support secured to enable implementation with work underway within the pilot site to understand what works in practice and support national scale-up
- [BizData](#) has been engaged as the technical delivery partner, leading the design and implementation of a secure, jurisdiction-based platform that enables processing of Emergency Department data within local environments, with outputs supporting public health surveillance and reporting
- The Northern Territory has been confirmed as the first implementation site, with preparation for deployment also occurring in South Australia and approval to proceed achieved in the ACT. Additional jurisdictions are engaged in planning and deployment discussions
- Collaboration with CSIRO ([Australian e-Health Research Centre](#)) has recently been established to support model development alongside the project's Data Scientist
- The project aligns with Australia's ICD-11 roadmap, with the AIHW incorporating NISAR-ED as a key use case in its business case to government (planned for 2026), supporting the introduction of ICD-11 in Australia.

◆ Northern Territory pilot: implementation underway

The Northern Territory is the first jurisdiction to progress to implementation, establishing a repeatable model for national scale-up.

- Formal endorsement through NT governance pathways
- Secure access to Emergency Department data extract
- ICD-11 coding of historical data underway
- Infrastructure provisioning and data pipeline build progressing.

This marks the transition from system design to real-world delivery.

Northern Territory implementation engagement, December 2025 (NISAR-ED and AIHW collaboration)



◆ Building specialist capability

Dr Islam Ibrahim – ICD-11 Coding Specialist

Islam is a medical doctor and international expert in health classifications who led the first national implementation of ICD-11 morbidity coding in Kuwait. Within NISAR-ED, she is leading the development and application of ICD-11 coding for Emergency Department data, supported by a purpose-built application developed with BizData that integrates with the WHO ICD-11 API. This enables structured, high-quality coding of clinical text to support model training, validation, and national reporting.

Loc Nguyen – Data Scientist, UNSW

Loc brings expertise in natural language processing and large language models and will lead the development and evaluation of AI models for automated ICD-11 coding within NISAR-ED. Working in partnership with the CSIRO Australian e-Health Research Centre, this role is critical to scaling the system from coded data to automated, reproducible injury surveillance at a national level.

◆ What's next

- Completion of NT environment provisioning and data pipeline build
- Model training and validation for ICD-11 external cause coding
- 'Human-in-the-loop' validation of LLM outputs (AIHW Classifications team)
- Key stakeholder interviews for the implementation science component
- Generation of initial injury surveillance outputs, including pilot dashboards, summary analyses, and validation outputs

◆ Conferences/Papers

- NISAR-ED will be presented at the [World Safety Conference](#) in Capetown, South Africa, September 2026
- Watch this space for some exciting papers coming out.

◆ Opportunities for jurisdictions

NISAR-ED has been designed as a jurisdiction-based system, enabling each State and Territory to retain control of their data while generating enhanced injury surveillance outputs within their own environment. As implementation progresses, early participating jurisdictions will help

shape the model and realise benefits sooner.

We welcome discussions with jurisdictions interested in participating in the next phase of rollout.

◆ **Funding acknowledgement**

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The project is further supported by significant in-kind contributions from national partners, including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM), and the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC).

◆ **Contact**

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We look forward to working with jurisdictions and partners to strengthen injury prevention through better data.



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