

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

## MEDIA STATEMENT

October 2023

### **Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability Healthcare**

#### **1. When will the Module be released?**

A pilot of the Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability Healthcare Module (the Module) will commence in early 2024. Following the pilot, the Commission will set a launch date.

#### **2. How is the Commission planning to encourage health services to undertake the Module?**

The Commission is actively engaging with key industry stakeholders ahead of the Module's release. Working with state and territory sustainability units, the Commission will align the Module's content to national strategies, highlighting the value of the Module in achieving legislative requirements at the federal and state/territory levels.

In the long term, the Commission anticipates building environmental requirements into existing mandatory standards.

#### **3. How will health services use of the Module be assessed and reported while it's voluntary?**

Following the Module's release, the Commission's initial objective will be to raise awareness and adoption of the Module.

Health services implementing the Module will be assessed through the same accreditation and reporting processes as other national safety and quality standards.

#### **4. The Commission's website says "Work will also continue on identifying relevant resources that could be used by health services to implement the module." When and how will these resources be shared?**

The Commission is working with technical experts, nationally and internationally to identify and catalogue resources that can be used, adapted, and applied in the Australian context. These will be made available on the Commission website and shared with stakeholders. An evaluation of existing gaps will also inform the development of additional resources.

**5. Is there a plan and timeline for a) reviewing the Module b) assessing its effectiveness in progressing climate resilient, sustainable, continuous, safe and quality healthcare in a climate affected world c) incorporating elements of the voluntary SHM into mandatory standards in the future?**

The Commission typically reviews new Modules after three years to allow sufficient time for health services to implement all actions and collect sufficient data to refine guidance on the standards.

However, the review of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards commences in 2024, with a planned release date for the third version in 2027. It is anticipated elements of the Module will be incorporated into the NSQHS Standards at that time.

Evaluating effectiveness will be an essential part of the implementing and updating the Module during the review.

## **ENDS**

For more information, visit: [safetyandquality.gov.au/NMS23](https://safetyandquality.gov.au/NMS23)

### **Media enquiries**

Margaret Sleath, Communications Director

M: 0491 217 641 | E: [media@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:media@safetyandquality.gov.au)

### **About the Commission**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is an Australian Government agency that leads and coordinates national improvements in the safety and quality of health care based on the best available evidence. By working in partnership with patients, consumers, clinicians, managers, policy makers and healthcare organisations, the Commission aims to ensure that the health system is better informed, supported and organised to deliver safe and high-quality care. [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)