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MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Improvement Foundation and OBS selected to develop a web based reporting tool for Aboriginal health services

The Improvement Foundation and OBS are proud to announce they will be implementing a project to develop a web based reporting tool (web portal) for the Department of Health and Ageing's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH).

When operational, the web portal will enable a single, fast, reliable, and efficient transmission of service data, and streamlined reporting from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services to the Department. It will replace the separate web-based and paper-based processes currently used to collect service activity and program performance data.

Service data will include OATSIH reporting data, a wide range of clinical measures, and will align to reporting requirements for a range of other programs.

The web portal will enable health services to access their own summary reports on client and service outcomes. This information can then be used to support continuous quality improvement (CQI) work to improve health outcomes within their communities.

The new web portal will be available to many services by mid 2011, with some health services able to use an interim solution earlier than that. It is planned to roll out the new arrangements to all the services within scope over a three year period.

“The new web based reporting tool is an important project that will reduce the reporting burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services” says David Wright, Chairman, Improvement Foundation Australia. “Having timely access to relevant data will support and drive health and service improvement activities which will lead to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

“Improvement Foundation selected OBS to deploy this solution based on their extensive experience with SharePoint, including the newly released SharePoint 2010, as well as their ongoing relationship that has been developed over the past 18 months through the design, development and deployment of a similar SharePoint based web portal solution for the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program”, said David Wright.

The web based reporting tool (web portal) is being built on Microsoft’s SharePoint 2010 platform. This is a business collaboration platform enabling people to connect through formal and information business communities.

NOTES TO EDITOR:

About the Improvement Foundation

The Improvement Foundation (IF) (www.improve.org.au) has significant experience in the design and delivery of quality improvement programs. Of importance is IF’s implementation of the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program (APCC) Program. The APCC Program is a large scale quality improvement program funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and focused on improving the management and outcomes of chronic disease and prevention in primary care health services. Approximately 40 ACCHOs have participated, or are currently participating, in the Program and worked with mainstream health services to improve their services and subsequently the health outcomes of their communities.

Major achievements of IF relating to the APCC Program include:

- Introducing national collection of clinical data from primary care sources
- Implementation of an Australian based web portal where participants can interact with the Program and submit quality indicators on a monthly basis
- Developing quality indicators for CHD, diabetes, COPD and the prevention of chronic disease. The development used an expert reference panel approach and included consultation with national organisations such as the Heart Foundation, Diabetes Australia, the Australian Lung Foundation, and the RACGP
- Gaining compliance from major clinical software vendors with regard to the production of reports to support the APCC Program
- Supporting more than 70 Divisions of General Practice and State Based Affiliates through their participation
- Supporting approximately 1000 health services through their participation.

IF is also working with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) to introduce state wide collection of quality indicators using the APCC Program infrastructure. Recently IF further adapted the APCC Program's content to allow participants to focus work to support the Closing the Gap initiative in conjunction with QAIHC and General Practice Queensland (GPQ).

About OBS

OBS (www.obs.com.au) is Australia's premier SharePoint specialists and helps organisations get value from SharePoint through business focused products and services. OBS has extensive experience in Microsoft SharePoint technology providing expert, award winning SharePoint solutions to 100's of organisations around the world, including over 40 ASX Top 200 companies.

OBS is 100% Microsoft focused and has the largest team of SharePoint 2010 trained experts in Australia, already successfully deploying numerous SharePoint 2010 projects.

With over 10 years experience in helping Australian organisations implement and build business value on SharePoint, an extensive component library, proven solutions as well as access and expertise to the best 3rd party SharePoint Add-Ons are available. This provides customers with an optimal business solution rather than just the deployment of software.

OBS offers a diverse range of products and solutions including:

- Collaboration & Social Networking
- Document & Records Management
- Intranets & Portals
- Web & Internet Presence
- Document Management
- Search
- Form & Workflow Automation
- Business Intelligence
- SharePoint Custom Applications.

OATSIH Web Portal Benefits

Upon completion, OATSIH will have a fully functional, effective, and expandable web based reporting implementation consisting of:

- A fast, reliable and efficient portal for the transmission of service data to and from the Department
- Web Portal look and feel that reflects the Organisation and Program branding
- An effective information portal that connects Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) and their staff with OATSIH and its Programs
- Summary reports on client and service outcomes that will support continuous quality improvement
- Ad hoc self service reporting
- Electronic collection of service activity and program performance data
- Electronic collection of national key performance indicator (KPI) data from State and Territory government funded Indigenous specific health services

- A Program management solution
- Secure access from the Internet anywhere, anytime
- Security trimmed user interface to protect sensitive data
- Integration with Microsoft Office System desktop.

Service users, and other clients, such as the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and its state based Affiliates, will interact with the system through a SharePoint web portal via the internet and secure login. Program managers and Administrators will have a single sign-on experience using Microsoft Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) for program management providing a fully integrated experience.