Australian Government

National Training – Initial Assessment and Referral (IAR) for Mental Healthcare

June & July 2026 Workshop Schedule

The IAR Guidance (IAR) and Decision Support Tool (IAR-DST) is designed to establish a national, standardised approach to conducting initial mental health assessments, and support general practitioners and other health professionals to recommend the most appropriate level of care for a person seeking mental health support. The IAR and the IAR-DST are an Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Aging initiative bringing together information from various sources, including Australian and international evidence and advice from various leading experts.

There are **two options** to complete the training:

1. Online live workshop

The first component of the workshop will focus on:

- An introduction to the IAR and the development of the suite of guidance documentation, including stepped care in Australia.
- Orientation to the domains, levels of care, and decision support tool.

The second component of the workshop is an interactive **practical activity**, which includes:

- Application of the IAR-DST using a consumer scenario.
- Clinical judgement and supported decision-making.

Learning outcomes

1. Discuss the principles underpinning the national approach to stepped care.
2. Summarise the IAR development process.
3. Explain the use of the IAR Guidance in practice settings to generate a recommended level of care.
4. List the levels of care in relation to available regional services
5. Identify the principles related to clinical decision making and consumer choice

This is an RACGP and ACRRM approved event and a certificate of attendance will be issued to self-report your CPD hours as below.

The workshop will be facilitated by an experienced IAR Training and Support Officer (TSO) from the National TSO Network.

The session teaches you how to use the IAR-DST, not how to conduct an assessment. The IAR-DST is not an assessment tool; it is a decision aid.

Once you have completed a session you are able to use all adaptations of the IAR-DST.

Please click on the links below to register. (*Please **do not register for more than one session** as sessions and places are limited).*

Date and Time	Scenario	Registration link
Tues 30th June 2026 10:00am-12:00pm AEST	Jessica (adult)	https://events.humanitix.com/iar-dst-national-training-tue-30th-june-2026
Wed 8th July 2026 12:00pm - 2:00pm AEST	Crystal (child)	https://events.humanitix.com/iar-dst-national-training-wed-8th-july-2026
Mon 20th July AEST 10:30am-12:30pm	Jessica (adult)	https://events.humanitix.com/iar-dst-national-training-mon-20th-july-2026
Wed 29th July AEST 11:00am – 1:00pm	Jessica (adult)	https://events.humanitix.com/iar-dst-national-training-wed-29th-july-2026

By registering for an event, registration details will be transferred to ZOOM Webinar. Please click here to view the ZOOM Privacy Policy.

2. e-Learning Module

A self-paced eLearning module has been designed for health professionals who are suitably qualified and experienced in mental health assessment and/or treatment. This flexible online format enables health professionals and intake interviewers/care navigators, including non-clinical staff, to complete training at a time and place that suits their operational needs. For more information on this format, please refer to this video.

This is an RACGP and ACRRM approved event, and a certificate of attendance will be issued to self-report hours as below.

For more information about either training option, contact: lar.dst@cesphn.com.au