

7. CONCLUSION

The *New South Wales Child Health Survey* was conducted between March and September 2001. It provided the first comprehensive statewide information on the health of children aged 0–12 years. A report of the results of the survey, including an outline of the final methods used is available on request,⁶⁵ or at www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phb/phb.html.

As this report shows, the development of methods used for the *New South Wales Child Health Survey* was a complex and time-consuming process, involving input from a range of stakeholders and experts in child health and survey methods. By necessity, however, the report simplifies the process, because it presents the various stages in linear order. In practice, there was much overlap between the different stages of development, and issues arose, and were resolved, over varying timeframes.

It is hoped that this report will assist with the development of other telephone surveys of child health, and will help to help promote consistency among such surveys. The methods used in the *New South Wales Child Health Survey* have already provided the foundation for long-term monitoring of child health in NSW. The procedures used for selecting respondents and gaining informed consent, as well as much of the interview script and many of the question modules, have been incorporated into the ongoing NSW Health Survey Program. From 2002, the Program has conducted continuous interviewing across New South Wales, and across all ages, with a target of around 20,000 interviews—including 4,500 interviews of children aged 0–15 years—per year. Child-specific reports from the Program, including information on how methods and topics have evolved, will be published every two years henceforward, with the first report in 2005.