



Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group

Communiqué – 18 March 2024

The third meeting of the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group took place on 18 March 2024.

Members reviewed outcomes of the February 2024 meeting of the Council for Connected Care and provided advice on a range of initiatives underway at the Agency including the Digital Health Standards Catalogue, National Interoperability Procurement guidelines, Aged Care Clinical Information Systems (CIS) standard, and Health Information Exchange (HIE).

Strong support for these initiatives was unanimous across the group, noting their strategic value to uplift and align technical capabilities for safe and secure health information sharing across Australia. Members provided strong support for the National Interoperability Procurement guidelines due for release June 2024 noting the value in providing practical guidance for anyone procuring a health-IT solution in Australia. The guidelines will complement the Digital Health Standards Catalogue also due for release in June 2024. A Procurement Reference Group will be established by the Agency in April 2024 to support this work.

Members reviewed progress on the Aged Care CIS standard including proposed recommendations for minimum software requirements. The Agency continues to engage widely on recommendations that propose connection to My Health Record, the Healthcare Identifier Service, the National Secure Messaging Network as well as Electronic Prescribing and Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) for systems with electronic medication management capabilities. The native support of terminology standards SNOMED-CT AU and Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) was proposed. The Aged Care CIS standard and multi-year roadmap to support change and adoption activities will be released by the Agency in August 2024.

Members reviewed progress related to delivery of a national HIE noting the phased roll-out plan endorsed by the Digital Health Oversight Committee. Development of a high-level architecture and roadmap continue to be the focus for 2024. Phase 1 will begin with the National Provider Directory as a foundational priority. The Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group will continue to provide advice on standards related to HIE development.

Members also reviewed the progress on the draft Australian Core Data Set for Interoperability (AUCDI) following closure of the public consultation period and participated in a discovery session to explore the best ways to maximise and monitor the collective impact of multiple standards organisations.

KPIs agreed by the Standards Advisory Group are on track for the FY 2023/24 workplan. The next meeting of the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group will take place in May 2024.