



Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group Communiqué

The Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group met on 31 March 2026. The meeting opened with an Acknowledgement of Country, with the new Chair, Christopher Radbone welcoming members and guests. The Chair noted several new appointments to the Group, reflecting ongoing sector collaboration and representation and acknowledged the contribution made by departing members.

Members received an update on recent meetings of the Council for Connected Care, including sessions focused on Transitions of Care and on Data and Design. These meetings highlighted the importance of consumer perspectives and reinforced the role of interoperable, well-designed systems in supporting safer, more connected care. Council insights continue to inform the Agency's work, standards development and broader interoperability planning.

The Group noted an overview of the Australian FHIR Community Process, which aligns with the HL7 International governance model and provides a nationally consistent approach for developing Australian FHIR Implementation Guides. Members discussed the objectives of the process, including supporting the Australian FHIR Core Implementation Guide and strengthening confidence in FHIR standards through transparent and reliable governance. The Health Connect Australia Provider Directory Implementation Guide is progressing through this process and is undergoing consultation to ensure it supports national adoption needs.

Members received a summary of consultation outcomes for the Draft National Framework for Digital Health Standards. Twenty-six submissions and focus group input provided 193 feedback items, demonstrating strong support for a national standards framework and identifying opportunities to refine governance, clinical safety, workflow alignment, transparency and workforce capability. A multi-year roadmap, maturity model and exploration of legislative levers were also encouraged. The Framework has been refined in response to feedback and will be published on the Agency's website.



Members received an update on planning for Australia's transition to ICD-11. The Group noted the enhanced classification capabilities and digital-first design of ICD-11, and its alignment with Australia's broader digital health reforms. Dependencies, implementation challenges and early opportunities were outlined, including the potential for staged adoption across different use cases. The Group discussed the importance of coordinated standards development, alignment with SNOMED CT AU and sustained sector resourcing to support implementation.

Members were provided with an overview of the Common Clinical Information System Requirements. These requirements establish the minimum capabilities needed for systems to connect with national digital health infrastructure and provide a consistent baseline for interoperability across care settings. Sector-specific requirements for aged care and general practice will be layered on top of the common baseline. The draft Common CIS Requirements will be released for consultation and members were invited to contribute.

Finally, the Group received updates on recent workshops and external advisory work. This included contributions to the Image Access Advisory Committee, which has developed a strategy report outlining national requirements for improving clinical access to medical images. Members also participated in workshops with Standards Australia to support development of a digital health standards use case dashboard and a new standards training program for Agency staff. A workshop on the Digital Health Communities Platform explored potential use cases and engagement approaches, and member feedback will inform the next phase of platform development.