



Meeting Communiqué: National Clinical Governance Committee for Digital Health

Meeting No. 2 – National Clinical Governance Committee for Digital Health

Held via Microsoft Teams

At 10:00am – 11:52pm (AEDT) on Tuesday, 17 March 2026

OFFICIAL

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) held the second National Clinical Governance Committee for Digital Health (NCGC-DH) meeting on 17 March 2026. This communiqué summarises discussions and key outcomes from the meeting.

Meeting summary

NCGC-DH Terms of Reference (ToR) finalisation

The Agency presented updates to the NCGC-DH ToR, including reporting and operational arrangements, clarification on the Chair's role as spokesperson and a revised definition of 'person-centredness' to better reflect consumer agency. The [ToR](#) is now finalised and published on the Agency's website.

Better and Faster Access Expert Advisory Group (BFA-EAG) updates and discussions

The Chair of the BFA-EAG, Dr Steve Hambleton, provided an overview of key discussions from the inaugural BFA-EAG meeting held on 4 February, which included:

- The Agency's proposed expansion of pathology tests available for immediate access by consumers through My Health Record
- Opportunities to expand Share by Default Rules to include other types of information, such as medicine information
- The draft Share by Default Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Share by Default provider and consumer guidance materials.

The Agency sought feedback from NCGC-DH members on the proposed expanded pathology list for immediate access by consumers through My Health Record. There was broad support from members, noting some key considerations raised regarding consumer consultation, genetic-related tests and potential impacts to healthcare provider workflows. The Agency will continue consultation regarding these matters as part of its Better and Faster Access implementation.

Virtual Care and Telehealth Expert Advisory Group (VC-EAG) updates and discussions

The Chair of the VC-EAG, Dr Louise Schaper, provided an overview of discussions from the inaugural VC-EAG meeting held on 11 February 2026, which included:

- Safety and quality considerations as virtual care models expand, including informed consent processes and safe prescribing practices

- The importance of consumer co-design in virtual care and telehealth initiatives
- Ensuring that virtual care and telehealth services meet the diverse needs and varied digital health literacy of consumers.

NCGC-DH members discussed opportunities for collaboration and harmonisation for virtual care and telehealth across the sector.

Dr Schaper also noted that Patients Australia recently launched the voluntary, industry designed *Virtual Care Provider Standards*.

Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing update

Mr Cleverley, Assistant Secretary, Digital Health Branch at the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provided an update on emerging policy considerations linked to Minister Butler's announcement in January 2026 that the Government would establish a National Medicines Record.

As a first step to strengthen safety in digital medicines and telehealth, the Australian Government will implement requirements to ensure all medicines-related information from online prescribers is made available to consumers and their healthcare providers through My Health Record. Sharing of clinical context for prescribing via an 'encounter record' in My Health Record will form an important part of this policy reform. Public consultation is planned for April 2026.

Mr Cleverley also outlined that new enabling legislative reforms to Australia's *Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010*, was passed by the Australian Parliament in late 2025. These reforms will enable technical and health data sharing standards to be listed in legislation.

Artificial Intelligence Enabled Care Expert Advisory Group (AI-EAG) updates and discussions

The Agency provided an update on preparations for the inaugural AI-EAG which is planned for 13 April 2026 and discussed the draft AI-EAG ToR. The Agency advised membership is currently being finalised with a focus on broad sector representation.

NCGC-DH members discussed:

- Safety and quality considerations related to AI enabled care
- The importance of understanding how AI is currently integrated into healthcare technologies and across care settings
- The need to strengthen consumer and healthcare provider AI literacy, particularly as AI becomes more embedded in healthcare practices
- Research processes required to support safe AI innovation in healthcare, noting the need for robust, evidence-based processes
- Social aspects and ethical use of AI enabled care, including the importance of clear and transparent communication to consumers about the use of AI in their health and care.

NCGC-DH and EAGs proposed 2026 workplan

The Agency provided an overview of the proposed 2026 forward workplan which aligns with the 2023-28 National Digital Health Strategy. Key priorities include supporting greater system interoperability and ensuring that outcomes are person-centred, inclusive and data-driven. The workplan will remain iterative to accommodate emerging priorities.

Next meeting

The next NCGC-DH meeting will be held virtually on **22 June 2026**.