



## Council for Connected Care

*A better-connected healthcare system for all Australians*

**Communiqué – 11 October 2023**

The third meeting of the Council for Connected Care (Council) took place face-to-face in Melbourne on 11 October 2023.

With the publication of the *Connecting Australian Healthcare – [National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028](#)* in July 2023, the Australian Digital Health Agency and its partners have moved quickly into the delivery phase.

Members discussed the actions in the first quarterly progress report. All immediate and ongoing 2023/2024 actions are on track. Under the standards and information sharing priority areas, several actions with short and medium terms have already commenced due to the Australian Government's decision to transition to a 'Share by Default'. Members noted the successful completion of actions 2.7 Digital health standards guiding principles and action and 6.1 Review of policy tools.

The first quarterly progress report is available on the [Agency website](#).

The topic for this Council meeting was standards – the second of five key priority areas in the Interoperability Plan. An update was provided by the [Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group](#) from its inaugural meeting in September. An example patient journey was presented and discussed to highlight the complexities of the standards landscape.

The first of two workshops during the day included a deep dive into the roles and responsibilities of multiple expert organisations involved in standards use, development, and implementation. The following organisations presented on standards collaboration, along the example patient journey:

- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Standards Australia
- HL7 Australia
- GS1 Australia
- Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE)
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

The members were also introduced to the Sparked program - a transformative community of experts and leaders, committed to advancing national FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) standards in healthcare data exchange.

Managed by CSIRO's Australian eHealth Research Centre, Sparked unites the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Australian Digital Health Agency, CSIRO, and HL7 Australia to support community collaboration and development of an Australian core dataset for interoperability and FHIR



Implementation. Ready to roll out a national FHIR Accelerator program, the initiative is set to amplify digital-enabled healthcare across Australia.

Members discussed the need to establish secure communication and messaging at a national level for all involved in the health and care of a person as a core foundation to ensure connected care for a patient and to enable the delivery of safe and high-quality care. Other themes identified included:

- The importance of person-centred care and clinical governance in standards development.
- Using pilot-testing for standards development.
- Ensuring alignment and advocacy for common standards.
- Promoting healthcare provider adoption of digital tools.
- Engaging consumers on the appropriate information for them to support their self-care.
- The criticality of allied health professionals in the provision of multi-disciplinary care.
- Prioritising collaboration based on use cases, not just technology.

In the second workshop, members participated in break-out group discussions. Each group explored priority areas and discussed how standards could contribute to, or be, prioritised to advance the connected care agenda. When designing and developing standards, the following themes were identified:

- Consent management.
- Equitable access to support healthcare priorities.
- Digital health literacy and flexible health information exchange to drive connected care.
- Effectiveness of care transitions.
- The criticality of National healthcare identifiers for the secure transfer of information for high-quality and safe care transitions.
- Consumer ownership and dynamic consent alongside digital literacy.
- The need to consider different information types instead of document types and the impact on standards development.

Mr Herko Coomans, an international digital health expert, joined the Council virtually to discuss SNOMED and the Global Digital Health Partnership. Mr Coomans spoke about work the Netherlands is doing on interoperability, the International Patient Summary and the importance of working collaboratively with other countries to create a global market to influence standards adoption.

The Council will next meet in early 2024. The primary focus of discussion for the next meeting will be information sharing.



Key themes for standards benefits and challenges

# AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL HEALTH AGENCY COUNCIL FOR CONNECTED CARE

MELBOURNE  
11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER  
2023

## SPOTLIGHT ON STANDARDS

ENHANCING the PROVISION of CARE



We do have the OPPORTUNITY to MODERNISE CARE



## DATA and CLINICAL STANDARDS

STANDARDS are PART of OUR LEGISLATION

ALLOWING CARE TO EVOLVE and CHANGE

INFORMING STANDARDS of CARE

MEASURING, MONITORING, COLLABORATING  
DEVELOPING NEW APPROACHES

INSIGHTS DEMONSTRATING VALUE

HELPING ME UNDERSTAND MY PATH!  
BUILDING LEGITIMACY

GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

HOW DO WE BRING EVERYONE ON THE JOURNEY?



LOOKING AT DATA

INCENTIVES DISINCENTIVES

MANY PLACES STILL NOT SHARING DATA

IT'S A PROCESS!

IMPROVING the QUALITY of CARE

RISKS? WHAT IS THE UNDERPINNING DATA QUALITY

INFO SHARING

SECURELY

agreed Meta-data

PUBLICALLY available



WHERE'S MY PDF?

LINKING DATA

STANDARDISING "IT'S ABOUT PURPOSE"

AND PART of a BROADER COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEM

## STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

STANDARDS are an ENABLER



We need SEAMLESS INTEROPERABILITY

LEVERAGING DATA COORDINATING

DECISION SUPPORT

BURDEN REDUCTION

POPULATION HEALTH SOLUTIONS

KNOWING WHAT'S NEEDED and WHO IS IN THE ROOM



THE RIGHT LANGUAGE

TRANSFERRING data across DIVERSE NETWORKS

IHE has the ability



PROVIDING the VEHICLE

... BEDDING DOWN EXPECTATIONS



(STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED)

We're all agreed - we want the **BEST** FOR OUR PATIENTS



STANDARDS are the STARTING POINT

**COLLABORATION DIVERSITY**

**PRIORITISATION**

AGREEING ON A PATHWAY

BRINGING COLLEGES TO THE TABLE

THERE IS CONFUSION FOR PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY SELF-MANAGING & ELDERLY



HOW does everyone CONTRIBUTE DATA & INFO to BROADEN the SCOPE?

allied health?

# SPARKED COLLABORATION

WORLD-LEADING STUFF

**COLLABORATIVE** BOTTOM-UP FOCUS

LET'S DEFINE OUR ROADMAP

**USE INDUSTRY**

WE ARE THE ONES WHO'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN

THE INDUSTRY CAME TOGETHER  
LOOKING AT WORLD'S BEST PRACTICE IN STANDARDS



OUR INDUSTRY IS GLOBAL

LOOKING INTERNATIONALLY AT INNOVATION & PROBLEM-SOLVING

FHIR

CONTINUALLY TESTING & VALIDATING

ACCELERATOR MADE FIT-FOR-PURPOSE

**COMMUNITY ENGAGING**

OPEN CONSENSUS AND STANDARD COMPLIANT

CONSIDERING NEW PROPOSALS

HL7

COORDINATING "EVEN WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA"

JUST LET US KNOW

LET'S ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP

**DISRUPT** the REFERRAL SERVICE

GET INVOLVED

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT

WE HAVE TO OFFER REAL INCENTIVES FOR CLINICIANS, GPs TO ADOPT DIGITISATION

Tele-HEALTH STANDARDS?



DESIGNING CHANGE STRATEGY FROM THE START

SO MUCH DATA TASKING!

WE'RE JUST SO BUSY

INVOLVE THE PATIENT FROM THE START