



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

Council for Connected Care

A better-connected healthcare system for all Australians

Communiqué – 7 June 2023

All Australians deserve a connected healthcare system where information is shared safely, securely and seamlessly with the right people at the right time to help with better healthcare.

The Australian Digital Health Agency has established the Council for Connected Care (Council) to provide strategic advice on matters related to connecting care (interoperability) and support national implementation of the Connecting Australian Healthcare – National Healthcare Interoperability Plan.

Mr Rob Heferen, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, chairs the Council, which also comprises 25 health leaders across the health and care continuum and digital health technology sector who are critical to advancing interoperability.

The inaugural meeting of the Council for Connected Care took place virtually on 7 June 2023. Mr Heferen welcomed members and thanked them for their commitment to work together to better connect Australia's healthcare system to provide better health outcomes for Australians. Each member introduced themselves and shared what a connected healthcare system would look like.

Members discussed Australia's digital health directions including initiatives announced in the 2023-24 Australian Government Budget, the reasons for connecting Australia's healthcare system, how standards can drive connected care and the 2023-24 Council workplan that will include deep dives on the priority areas of identity, standards and information sharing (sending, receiving, discovering and accessing information).

Key themes raised included:

- Consumer driven
- Equitable access
- Improved health outcomes
- Positive care experience for consumers and providers
- Safe and quality care
- Continuity of care
- Value based care
- Data driven services
- Population level data.



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Ms Amanda Cattermole, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Digital Health Agency, said the time was right to transform healthcare and that the Council provided a breadth of experience to deliver the vision of a connected healthcare system.

The Council will meet four times a year, with the next meeting scheduled for 10 August 2023.