



Council for Connected Care

A better-connected healthcare system for all Australians

Communiqué

The thirteenth meeting of the Council for Connected Care was held virtually as the Council's Annual Review, bringing members together to reflect on progress over the past year and consider priorities for further advancing Australia's connected care system. The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, and a welcome to new members joining for their first meeting. The Chair also acknowledged the contributions of outgoing members, recognising their role in supporting the Council's work and broader national digital health priorities. A full list of Council membership, including recent changes, is available on the [Agency website](#).

The Council reviewed progress across the National Healthcare Interoperability Plan and the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Roadmap over 2025–26, noting input from Council meetings throughout the year which led to significant progress across key priority areas. Members heard that the Interoperability Plan had progressed from 55 per cent complete one year ago to 80 per cent complete, with remaining work concentrated in areas such as identity and information sharing, which were recognised as critical foundations for safe, trusted and effective connected care. A case study reinforced the importance of strengthening national approaches to identity, data quality, standards adoption, secure information exchange and workforce capability, while ensuring reforms translate into practical improvements for consumers, clinicians and the broader health system.

As part of the Annual Review, members reflected on the Council's performance over 2025–26 and discussed how its role can continue to evolve. Feedback reaffirmed the Council's value as a national forum for collaboration and strategic advice and cross-sector engagement, while also highlighting opportunities to strengthen alignment with delivery priorities and maintain a focus on practical, system-wide outcomes. Members reflected on the importance of ensuring national reforms continue to support tangible improvements in care delivery, information sharing and consumer outcomes.

A recurring theme in the meeting was the need to now move from policy, planning and design into sustainable implementation and adoption. Members emphasised that national reforms need to be supported by clear implementation pathways, industry and provider readiness, practical guidance, realistic timeframes and stronger visibility of the benefits being delivered in real care settings. The discussion also highlighted the importance of continuing to share case studies and practical examples that show how connected care can improve safety, reduce duplication, support continuity of care and help consumers and clinicians access the right information at the right time.

The Council noted the role of standards as a foundation for trusted information sharing, consistent implementation and scalable digital health reform and received an update on the



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Standards Advisory Group and the National Framework for Digital Health Standards. The discussion highlighted that standards are not only technical documents, but an important enabler of safe, high-quality care, helping information to be captured, exchanged, interpreted and reused consistently across the health system. Members also discussed the importance of embedding standards into procurement, implementation support and broader governance arrangements, so that standards adoption becomes part of routine delivery.

The National Clinical Governance Committee for Digital Health (NCGC-DH) and its Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) were discussed, recognising their role in providing national clinical governance oversight for digital health, including system safety and quality. Members discussed the Committee's focus on supporting delivery of the Share by Default reforms, advancing virtual care and telehealth models, and supporting the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence in healthcare. The importance of alignment between clinical and technical initiatives was noted, alongside the importance of broader policy settings in supporting connected care outcomes.

The Council received an update on Health Connect Australia, recognising its progress from planning into delivery through the establishment of core national infrastructure, including the Provider Directory and National Digital Health Authorisation Service. Members noted the program's transition into its next phase, focused on enabling secure information sharing and progressing priority use cases toward national implementation, supporting greater connectivity across the health system.

An update was also provided on the Share by Default reform program, with members noting the commencement of new legislative requirements from 1 July 2026 for pathology and diagnostic imaging reports to be shared with My Health Record. Members discussed increased availability and use of health information and the role of the reform in supporting improved care coordination, reducing duplication and informing clinical decision-making. Members also recognised the importance of appropriate governance, safeguards and consumer confidence in supporting the successful implementation of the reforms.

Members were briefed on the draft third edition of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The Council noted the integration of digitally enabled care requirements across the Standards, including expectations for interoperable systems, use of national standards and terminologies and requirements relating to the governance of digital health systems. Members discussed the role of the Standards as a key national lever for advancing safe, high-quality digitally enabled care.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the significant progress achieved across Australia's digital health reform agenda over the past year. Members noted the continued maturation of national infrastructure, standards and governance arrangements, and the opportunities this presents to improve information sharing and support better care for Australians. The next meeting of the Council will be held on 3 December 2026.