



## Media release

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### Fanning the flames of innovation with FHIR® as Australia's digital health transformation gathers pace

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) in partnership with HL7 Australia® is turning up the heat on digital health innovation with the launch of FHIRside, a dynamic new forum that will bring developers and implementers together with industry experts to solve real-world challenges in health technology.

Commencing 7 October 2025, FHIRside will offer a weekly opportunity for healthcare technology professionals to connect, collaborate and accelerate the implementation of Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources® (FHIR) standards.

FHIR, an international standard for exchanging digital health information, is critical to improving the safety, quality and efficiency of digital health systems, leading to better-connected care for all Australians.

To support the broader adoption of FHIR across Australia's health sector, the Agency is introducing initiatives like FHIRside along with extensive training opportunities to foster greater practical engagement that builds capability within the sector.

The Agency's Acting CEO, Peter O'Halloran, said this new forum will provide an opportunity for participants to connect with HL7 Australia FHIR experts, receive peer support and ask questions without judgment.

"FHIRside will create a vibrant environment for real-time learning, peer mentoring and idea testing," Mr O'Halloran said.

"Whether you're stoking the coals of an implementation challenge, or fanning the flames of new ideas, the new weekly drop-in FHIRside sessions are the ideal setting for collective learning and building connections. This is where inquisitive minds gather, ideas shine brightly, and meaningful progress unfolds."

Each one-hour virtual FHIRside session will offer a new approach that complements training programs, online forums and formal standards development.

"FHIRside fills a gap in the implementation of standards," the Agency's Acting Chief Digital Officer, Danielle Pentony, said. "It's not just about solving technical problems, it's about supporting capability uplift and cultivating a shared ecosystem that strengthens cross-organisational collaboration and supports innovation."

#### Why join FHIRside?

- Direct, real-time access to FHIR experts who are ready to help you advance your ideas
- Peer-to-peer learning in a welcoming and supportive environment
- A safe space for exploring questions and discussing challenges
- Opportunities to build strong cross-organisational relationships

HL7 Australia Chair David Rowlands said FHIRside reflects a hands-on approach to tackling interoperability challenges, bringing its global mission to life through local collaboration and practical engagement.

“FHIRside embodies the spirit of HL7’s mission to empower global health data interoperability,” Mr Rowlands said.

“By creating a space for real-time collaboration and informal learning, it will strengthen the community and accelerate meaningful implementation of FHIR standards.”

The drop-in sessions align with the Agency’s delivery of the suite of fully funded FHIR training courses. With existing courses having recently been updated and more in development to empower Australia’s healthcare workforce, FHIRside provides that additional support for those diving into FHIR for the first time.

The inaugural FHIRside session will take place on 7 October 2025 from 12:30 – 1:30pm AEDT, running until December before recommencing in late January 2026.

To join this or future FHIRside sessions, visit the [FHIR training courses webpage](#) and follow the Agency’s [LinkedIn page](#) for updates.

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#### **Media contact**

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#### **About the Australian Digital Health Agency**

When it comes to improving the health of all Australians, the role of digital innovation and connection is a vital part of a modern, accessible healthcare system. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, digital health has seen exponential growth in relevance and importance, making it more pertinent than ever for all Australians and healthcare providers.

Better patient healthcare and health outcomes are possible when you have a health infrastructure that can be safely accessed, easily used and responsibly shared.

To achieve this, the [National Digital Health Strategy](#) is establishing the foundations for a sustainable health system that constantly improves. It underpins and coordinates work that is already happening between governments, healthcare providers, consumers, innovators and the technology industry.

For further information: [www.digitalhealth.gov.au](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au).

*The Australian Digital Health Agency is jointly funded by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments.*

#### **About Health Level Seven®**

Health Level Seven International® (HL7) was founded in 1987 and is a not-for-profit, accredited standards-developing organisation providing a framework and standards for exchanging, integrating, sharing and retrieving electronic health information.

HL7 Australia began in 1998 as the Standards Australia IT-14 Health Informatics Committee. In May 2002, it was first incorporated independently as the HL7 Australasia User Group. In March 2010, the name changed to HL7 Australia and by December 2019 became a limited company.