



Media release

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Winners of Innovation Challenge to help future proof Australia's healthcare system announced

The Australian Digital Health Agency has announced the winners of the Innovation Challenge championing digital health innovation to provide a healthier future for Australians through connected healthcare.

Through the National Digital Health Strategy, government is partnering with our internationally competitive and vibrant health technology sector at a time when the use of technology in health and social care has never been more important.

Australian Digital Health Agency Chief Digital Officer, Steven Issa congratulated the winners who were determined through a competitive process and thanked all applicants for participating in the Innovation Challenge.

“We were delighted to see such interest in this challenge when we received 395 applications from Australian industry and academia on how to solve key healthcare challenges. It was difficult to determine the finalists with so many highly innovative ideas. Thank you to all who submitted applications and congratulations to the winners,” he said.

“It’s great to see so many working hard to develop innovative solutions to help ensure a sustainable and fair healthcare system.”

The winners of the challenge are:

- [Murdoch Children’s Research Institute](#) for their solution, Allergy Pal, a digital management platform for children with a moderate to severe food allergy seeking to build a national database of patients with food allergies and facilitate greater continuity of care and improved patient health outcomes.
- [CareMonitor](#) for their digital Shared Care and Remote Monitoring Platform designed to provide Australians with a seamless transition of services across the health system and management of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 or other chronic health issues in record time.
- [Oculo](#) for their solution to link mobile technologies for the remote capture of objective measures of visual function to inform telehealth decisions and care pathways for eye care.
- [Fred IT Group](#) for their solution enabling Australians to easily access their prescriptions electronically through WhatsApp.
- [Pen CS](#) for their solution, Disease Tracker, a primary care clinical data and analytics platform that improves epidemic surveillance, emergency response and clinical outcomes through point-of-care decision support.

The Agency will now collaborate closely with the successful applicants to assist them to co-design their solution and assist with plans for national scaling.

“As restrictions are eased and Australians come out of hibernation, we want them to access health and care services – especially if they have been putting their health on hold over the past few months. I want to reassure the community that they can access healthcare services safely – whether that be through social distancing in healthcare settings or through the new technology that has taken off this year,” Mr Issa said.



“The winners of our challenge are providing amazing digital tools to improve the quality of healthcare services – by improving the quality of telehealth consultations, providing an app for consumers to store their digital prescriptions and making it easier for people to manage their allergies. We are also increasing the capacity of the health system by better using the data we have to assist health services plan for and respond to the needs of the community.”

“We will continue to work with innovators, academia, peak bodies, employers and health industry stakeholders to make sure healthcare workers have the necessary skills to embrace digital technology. This can be done in healthcare through the National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap.”

The Agency would also like to thank the Innovation Challenge partners for their support of this initiative. Our partners for the Innovation Challenge include: the CSIRO, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, the University of Sydney, Lifeline, Monash University, Austrade, UNSW Sydney, Kirby Institute, MTP Connect, ANDHealth, MIMS Australia and MIMS New Zealand, the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA), Healthdirect Australia, Allied Health Professionals Australia (AHPA), the University of Melbourne, Aged Care Industry Information Technology Council (ACIITC), COTA Australia, Consumers Health Forum of Australia, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Australasian Institute of Digital Health, Consumers Health Forum, Digital Health CRC, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory and Mentally Friendly.

The winners of the Innovation Challenge were determined through a competitive process along three themes; digital clinical care, digital social care and digital health population management and future preparedness. All applications were reviewed by a panel of digital health subject matter experts within the Agency who shortlisted. The shortlisted applications were then scored by a panel of experts in the technology, health and social services, and investors across the private sector, government and academia. The evaluation criteria are available here: <https://innovation.digitalhealth.gov.au/>

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About the Australian Digital Health Agency

The Agency is tasked with improving health outcomes for all Australians through the delivery of digital healthcare systems, and implementing [Australia's National Digital Health Strategy – Safe, Seamless, and Secure: evolving health and care to meet the needs of modern Australia](#) in collaboration with partners across the community. The Agency is the System Operator of [My Health Record](#), and provides leadership, coordination, and delivery of a collaborative and innovative approach to utilising technology to support and enhance a clinically safe and connected national health system. These improvements will give individuals more control of their health and their health information, and support healthcare providers to deliver informed healthcare through access to current clinical and treatment information. Further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au.