



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

# Connecting Australian Healthcare

## National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028

Quarterly Progress Report  
(January to March 2024)

Issued 8 May 2024





Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

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# Background

The *Connecting Australian Healthcare – National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028* ([Interoperability Plan](#)) is Australia's first national plan to deliver a connected healthcare system for more personalised holistic care and better health and wellbeing outcomes for all Australians.

The Interoperability Plan sets out a national vision to share consumer health information in a safe, secure and seamless manner and identifies 44 actions across five priority areas – identity, standards, information sharing (sending, receiving and finding the right information), innovation (initiatives that drive interoperability) and measuring benefits – and policy tools to support interoperability.

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) has established the [Council for Connected Care](#) (the Council) as the key governance body to provide strategic advice, oversee implementation of the Interoperability Plan, and report on progress.

The Interoperability Plan was published on the Agency's website on 11 July 2023. This is the third quarterly progress report against the 44 actions in the Interoperability Plan. The timeframes to initiate the 44 actions are categorised as:

- Immediate – within one year (2023-24)
- Ongoing – currently underway (2023-24 to 2027-28)
- Short term – one to three years (2024-25 to 2026-27)
- Medium term – three to five years (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Status of actions – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly progress report (January to March 2024)

**2 actions** completed

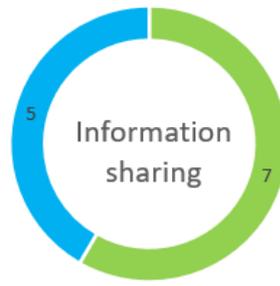
- ✓ Action 2.7 Standards guiding principles
- ✓ Action 6.1 Policy review

**34 actions** on track

- ✓ 25 as per schedule (immediate/ongoing actions)
- ✓ 9 ahead of schedule (short/ medium-term actions)

**8 short or medium-term actions** will commence in 2024/25 or 2025/26 as per schedule

**0 actions** are behind schedule



■ Completed ■ On track ■ Not commenced (future work) ■ Behind schedule



# Identity



## Identity

Healthcare identifiers support information sharing by accurately identifying individuals, healthcare providers and healthcare provider organisations. This ensures information shared is for the right individual and improves the safety of care provided. It also gives individuals greater control over the level of access they provide to healthcare providers.

This priority area includes 10 actions to leverage the national Healthcare Identifiers Service and the National Health Services Directory:

- 2 actions are immediate (2023-24)
- 4 actions are ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28)
- 4 actions are short (2024-25 to 2026-27).

## Progress highlights

A Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Roadmap to increase the adoption and use of HIs is awaiting intergovernmental sign-off prior to publication. A communication and engagement plan for the HI Roadmap is being developed to coordinate messaging and engagement activities between the Agency, Department of Health and Aged Care and Services Australia.

Intergovernmental collaboration to increase the use of healthcare identifiers and health service directories continues for national programs including the health information exchange, electronic prescribing, electronic requesting, and sharing by default for pathology and diagnostic imaging reports.

Provider Connect Australia (PCA) has onboarded a new business partner – the Australian Podiatry Association which is the first allied health entry – and now has 3,638 healthcare services registered.



# Identity progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
<b>1.1 Using healthcare identifiers</b> Jurisdiction health departments, the Agency and Services Australia will adopt and use national healthcare identifiers in future digital health initiatives involving health information sharing.	The Agency Services Australia All Health Departments	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Department of Health and Aged Care is continuing to engage with key stakeholders, including jurisdictions, in considering the current and future use of healthcare identifiers as well as the proposed legislative reforms to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 and the role of healthcare identifiers in health information exchange.</p> <p>Services Australia continues to support and progress work on integrating healthcare identifiers into health systems, including the My Aged Care – My Health Record Integration Project.</p>
<b>1.2 Promoting healthcare identifiers</b> Promote the use of individual healthcare identifiers (IHIs), including creating IHIs for newborns as soon as possible after birth.	The Agency Services Australia	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency is developing a Healthcare Identifiers Service communication and engagement plan to accompany the soon to be released Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap. The plan seeks to coordinate communication and engagement activities relating to healthcare identifiers between the Agency, Department of Health and Aged Care and Services Australia.</p> <p>Services Australia continues to work with the Birth of a Child program to explore opportunities and approaches to creating Individual Healthcare Identifiers (IHIs) for newborns across jurisdictions.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Identity progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
<b>1.3 Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap</b> Develop a Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• coordinating the response to recommendations from the 2018 Healthcare Identifiers Act and Service Review and the 2020 review of the My Health Records Act that relate to or affect healthcare identifiers</li><li>• reviewing legislative impediments to the wider uptake of healthcare identifiers in the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010</li><li>• reporting on healthcare identifier adoption.</li></ul>	The Agency Department of Health and Aged Care	Immediate	On track	The Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap is currently progressing through the intergovernmental approval process prior to publication.
<b>1.4 Healthcare identifier matching</b> Develop and implement a program of improvements in healthcare identifier matching (especially IHIs), focusing on data quality, user interfaces, service improvements, enhancements and proactive efforts on IHI retrieval.	The Agency Services Australia	Short	On track	Services Australia's Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Data and Service Enhancement Project is on track to deliver improvements to the HI Service in mid 2024. Pre-planning scoping activities have begun between the Agency and Services Australia for work commencing in 2024-25.
<b>1.5 Review Healthcare Provider Identifier – Individual (HPI-I) conformance</b> Review conformance requirements for using HPI-Is when uploading documents to the My Health Record system, recognising that providers are at different stages of use of HPI-Is.	The Agency	Short	On track	The Agency is supporting jurisdictions in developing their transition timelines for the adoption of Healthcare Provider Identifiers – Individuals (HPI-Is) to facilitate participation in national programs including electronic prescribing.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Identity progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
<b>1.6 Develop deeper network structures</b> Develop deeper Healthcare Provider Identifier – Organisation (HPI-O) network structures, including revising published guidance, to support enhancing online HPI-O network registration, and work with vendors to address software limitations.	The Agency Services Australia	Short	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed under the Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap.
<b>1.7 Using the National Health Services Directory (NHSD)</b> Use the NHSD as the service directory for digital health programs. Where this is not possible (such as for a specialised directory), jurisdictions will work with Healthdirect Australia and the Agency to support the required flow of information.	All Health Departments	Ongoing	On track	The Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care are working with jurisdictions to understand the use cases for health service directories, including as the centre of a health information exchange (HIE). This discovery work will inform the design of the HIE architecture, and any necessary legislative provisions needed to support the proposed information flows.
<b>1.8 Implementing the 2019 National Health Services Directory (NHSD) review</b> Healthdirect, in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and state and territory health departments, will implement the work packages developed in response to the 2019 AHMAC NHSD review, which include positioning the NHSD as core national infrastructure.	Healthdirect	Ongoing	On track	<p>The NHSD Workplan is on track for all items to be delivered by 30 June 2024. The transition from XML to FHIR (bulk) integration with the Department of Health Victoria to support discharge summary workflow for Victorian Hospital and Health Services is now in the final stages of testing. Development of collateral for the NHSD Developer &amp; Integration Hub, which will support integrators in all stages of the journey, to build and test their integrations with the NHSD FHIR APIs, is progressing to schedule.</p> <p>Continuous quality improvement of directory data is an ongoing activity, linked to the Provider Connect Australia adoption program as well as the establishment of data sharing partnerships. The NHSD has also published the NHSD Data Strategy which outlines a roadmap of initiatives for further maturing the data practice.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Identity progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
1.9 <b>Provider Connect Australia</b> Roll out and support the implementation of Provider Connect Australia.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	As of 27 March 2024, 3,638 healthcare services have registered to Provider Connect Australia (PCA). A new business partner has been onboarded – the Australian Podiatry Association – which is the first allied health entry. The project is also engaging with private health insurers and other providers to connect to PCA.
1.10 <b>Integrating the NHSD and the Health Provider Directory (HPD)</b> Assess the feasibility of integrating the NHSD and the HPD to reduce duplication and rationalise the national directory infrastructure.	Services Australia	Short	On track	Services Australia has engaged with the Agency on current state and is supporting the planned feasibility assessment.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Standards



## Standards

To seamlessly exchange or access health information and ensure consistent understanding, it is essential to have agreed digital health standards, specifications and terminology.

This priority area includes 14 actions to drive effective leadership and a sustainable approach to standards governance:

- 5 actions are immediate (2023-24)
- 4 actions are ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28)
- 5 actions are short (2024-25 to 2026-27).

## Progress highlights

The Sparked FHIR Accelerator program, a cooperative between the Agency, CSIRO, HL7 Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care, delivered its first output with Release 1 Australian Core Data for Interoperability (AU CDI R1) being published for comment. Collaborative workshops continue for the Clinical Design Group and Technical Design Group as they progress work on the first implementation guides for eRequesting and AU CDI R1.

The Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group met for the third time in March 2024 to provide advice on the Aged Care Clinical Information System Standard, National Digital Health Standards Catalogue, National Procurement Guidelines and Health Information Exchange.



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
2.1 <b>Terminology in digital health systems</b> Engage with the health technology sector and health departments to enhance digital health systems to integrate national terminologies and classifications natively.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	The Agency and CSIRO are actively working together to manage the implementation of the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) v4 and Authoring Tool project with a focus on education and implementation support. Several workshops between the Agency and CSIRO are planned to update the National Clinical Terminology Service(NCTS) roadmap and product strategy. There have been several outreach and education activities in the last quarter with new organisations wishing to adopt both SNOMED CT and Ontoserver. Development of repeatable processes for working with clinical peak bodies to address content gaps in SNOMED CT and FHIR Terminology Resources has also been a priority.
2.2 <b>Develop specifications and standards</b> Engage with the health sector on the development, selection, use and maintenance of specifications and standards that support the Agency's approved priorities. When required, Agency-developed specifications will be progressed to become standards through the appropriate standards development organisation and their balloting/development processes.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency has migrated its FHIR implementation guides (IG) to a central location in the Agency's <a href="#">Developer Portal</a>. This will increase the visibility and improve the ease of access of specifications and standards produced by the Agency.</p> <p>The Agency continues to develop work to express its Clinical Digital Architecture (CDA) schema as FHIR logical models, as part of the My Health Record Modernisation program of work. Once this work is finalised, the outputs will be published to the Australian community so they can be reused by others who want to implement use cases where FHIR and CDA can co-exist.</p> <p>As one of the organisations supporting the 'Sparked' FHIR Accelerator program, the Agency continues its participation in the Clinical and Technical Design Groups to define HL7 FHIR AU Core and Australian Core Data for Interoperability (AUCDI).</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
2.3 <b>HL7 FHIR® AU usage</b> Develop and expand on HL7 FHIR® AU Base 2 for all Agency and Healthdirect digital health systems and services, including modifications and new systems.	The Agency Healthdirect	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency has continued to update its FHIR IGs to change their dependency from the HL7 AU Base FHIR IG to the HL7 AU Core FHIR IG. This work is aimed at increasing the interoperability of the FHIR content developed by the Agency.</p> <p>Healthdirect has completed the development of the FHIR pipeline to support booking provider integration and has successfully onboarded the first booking provider into this solution. Other booking providers will be transitioned to enable the automated maintenance of booking information in the NHSD.</p> <p>Design of FHIR pipeline to support the integration of secure messaging vendors with the NHSD has also progressed with assistance from the Agency and HL7 Australia to ensure the correct modelling of end-point resource (FHIR).</p> <p>Integration with Provider Connect Australia (PCA) to enable search and retrieval (FHIR) of health service details from NHSD into PCA went live in October 2023. This will improve PCA user experience and improve data matching and linking across the two systems.</p>
2.4 <b>International standards participation</b> Support Australian participation in international standards development.	The Agency AIHW	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency continues to actively engage with GS1, HL7, IHE and SNOMED-CT internationally through multiple channels and standards development work. Expansion of these activities where it will support the Australian digital health agenda will continue to be considered. Engagement with the Global Digital Health Partnership also provides a valuable opportunity to drive aligned global standards activities across multiple countries and the wider global standards community. Our participation in Standards Australia committees also enables us to continue our participation with ISO.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
2.5 <b>Standards catalogue</b> Develop and implement a national digital health standards catalogue as a user-friendly access point for digital health standards.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	Consultations have been completed across multiple stakeholder groups along with the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group to confirm priority areas for initial delivery of curated content and terminologies. The iterative development plan has also been supported, with the initial functionality and content to allow for launch of the Standards Catalogue. Ongoing activities to complete the content development and enable feedback will continue post launch.
2.6 <b>National Digital Health Standards Program (NDHSP)</b> Implement the NDHSP to develop a dynamic, comprehensive and collaborative digital health standards environment. This program will inform the need for and scope of national governance arrangements for standards.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	Collaboration with Standards Development Organisations and wider stakeholders have continued to inform the National Digital Health Standards Program and related workplan activities to ensure we are delivering broad support for all relevant standards. The Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group (SAG) met in March 2024 to provide advice on the Aged Care Clinical Information System Standard, National Digital Health Standards Catalogue, National Procurement Guidelines and Health Information Exchange. The Jurisdictions Roundtable on Standards (JRS) met in February 2024 to discuss terminology standards and provide input into the National Procurement Guidelines. Both groups continue to provide strategic advice on standards-related and standards-dependant programs.
2.7 <b>Digital health standards guiding principles</b> Develop and publish a set of national guiding principles for those developing or implementing digital health standards in Australia, in partnership with standards development organisations and the health technology sector.	The Agency	Immediate	Complete	The Agency published national digital health standards guiding principles on its <a href="#">Digital Health Developer Portal</a> in June 2023. The seven principles were developed in consultation with our partners in standards and interoperability.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
2.8 <b>Standards gap analysis</b> Complete a gap analysis to prioritise the digital health standards that are required most urgently to accelerate the interoperability agenda.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	Most urgent works on local standards development continue within the 'Sparked' program to deliver Australian Core Data for Interoperability (AU CDI) and priority Implementation Guides. Standards Gap analysis continues within related projects including development of the Standards Roadmap, Standards Catalogue and Procurement Guidelines. Tooling that has been proposed to support the Gap Analysis process is undergoing a final review to ensure ease of application within the sector to support ongoing needs.
2.9 <b>Engage standards stakeholders</b> Develop and maintain strong partnership ties with the health technology sector, standards development organisations and other key standards bodies.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	Strengthening of partnerships with key Standards Development Organisations are ongoing to ensure partnership agreements are in place. Partnership agreements with HL7 Australia, SNOMED, and Standards Australia remain current, and work is underway with IHE. The Agency has continued to encourage collaboration among standards stakeholders through the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group. The Agency also holds regular meetings with the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA) where software developers can ask questions directly to Agency executives which initiates further participation with the sector, in addition to scheduled consultations with the sector on standards.
2.10 <b>Including terminology in datasets</b> Coordinate discussions on expanding minimum datasets to incorporate the use of SNOMED CT-AU, AMT and LOINC for data not currently collected in areas such as medications, adverse reactions, pathology and radiology.	The Agency	Short	On track	Initial planning is underway with work already commencing under the Sparked Program to deliver the AU Core Data for Interoperability which specifies the clinical information (and corresponding data elements and terms) that should be included for data entry, data use and sharing information to support connected care. This includes the recommendation of SNOMED CT ValueSets, LOINC ValueSet and other code systems.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
2.11 <b>National library of terminology mapping</b> Develop a national “library” of resources that provide translation mapping from national terminologies to other popular terminologies.	The Agency	Short	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed in the 2024-25 financial year.
2.12 <b>API information exchange</b> Engage with the health technology sector to enhance digital health systems to use HL7 FHIR®, OAuth and OpenID Connect for API information exchanges.	The Agency	Short	On track	The Agency is continuing its discovery work for an authentication blueprint for health information exchange. The Agency intends to develop an industry consultation plan prior to consultation later in 2024.
2.13 <b>Develop a conformance framework</b> Engage with stakeholders to develop a conformance framework and associated conformance rules for national digital health systems and services.	The Agency	Short	On track	The conformance framework, which has been developed following consultation with key government and industry stakeholders, is currently progressing through the approval process prior to publication on the Agency’s website.
2.14 <b>Standards development cooperative</b> Establish a cooperative of developers working to expedite the development of new digital health standards, with a suitable operating model.	The Agency	Short	On track	The Sparked FHIR Accelerator program, a cooperative between the Agency, CSIRO, HL7 Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care, delivered its first outputs in March 2024 with Release 1 Australian Core Data for Interoperability (AU CDI R1) being published for comment. Collaborative workshops, in person and online, continue for the Clinical Design Group and Technical Design Group as they continue work on the first of the implementation guides related to eRequesting and AU Core.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Information sharing



## Information sharing

The sharing of information between healthcare providers and consumers requires information to be discoverable and accessible within a framework of trust, safety, consent, privacy and data quality.

This priority area includes 12 actions to increase the safe, secure and seamless sharing of information with the right people at the right time:

- 3 actions are immediate (2023-24)
- 2 actions are ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28)
- 4 actions are short (2024-25 to 2026-27)
- 3 actions are medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).

## Progress highlights

Work is progressing against the development of an architecture and roadmap for a national health information exchange. The Agency has established a jurisdictional advisory group to guide early use case development. The Department of Health and Aged Care has also established a jurisdictional policy and legal working group to work through the elements of a framework and identification of legislative reforms required to support health information sharing across Australia. Planning is well underway to engage stakeholders on the development of an authorisation and consent model.

Harmonising interoperability requirements in IT procurement is gaining momentum. The first iteration of the procurement guidelines has been reviewed and refined and is expected to be released in the coming months.



# Information sharing progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
3.1 <b>Interoperability in procurement</b> The Agency, health departments and Services Australia will specify interoperability requirements in procurement requests where they meet business objectives. This will leverage existing national infrastructure, terminology and standards.	The Agency All Health Departments Services Australia	Ongoing	On track	Work is ongoing with health departments to review current procurement processes and capability. Forthcoming procurement guidance on interoperability and standards will expedite this activity.
3.2 <b>API Gateway information exchange</b> Promote the use of the API Gateway to support interoperable information exchange, including development of a service catalogue.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	The Agency has drafted the business requirements to inform the changes necessary to Agency's Developer Portal to surface an API service catalogue. A technical feasibility study has also been undertaken that considers the architectural approach.
3.3 <b>Procurement guidance</b> Establish an intergovernmental working group to harmonise procurement and use of standards, based on best-practice approaches to interoperability requirements for information and communications technology system procurement.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	Initial version of guidelines for procurement of health IT systems are due for release in 2024. Development is being informed by the sector and will incorporate feedback received in early development process. Wider consultation and inputs will be encouraged to allow for further improvements to procurement text and continue expansion of the guidelines to cover as many technology platforms and procurement processes as possible.
3.4 <b>Online interoperability toolkit</b> Develop and maintain an online interoperability toolkit that provides practical guidance, lessons learned, case studies, data dictionaries, terminologies, common specifications, frameworks, and a library of exemplars and reusable components, including implementation guides.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	<p>The Interoperability Toolkit is being updated as new resources become available. This will include links to the Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap, National Digital Health Standards Catalogue, procurement guidelines and education materials that are currently under development.</p> <p>The Agency is also streamlining the journey for software developers, healthcare providers and industry to connect to national infrastructure, and is exploring how stakeholders can share experiences and learnings and contribute to standards development.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Information sharing progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
3.5 <b>GP and aged care facility interoperability</b> Assess the current interoperability between GP and residential aged care facility systems, identifying issues, requirements and potential solutions to resolve issues.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	The Agency is examining current digital health initiatives in Aged care to identify relevant needs for information sharing to GP clinical information systems.
3.6 <b>Consent Management</b> Engage with consumers to investigate options for enabling individuals to grant consent to access all their health information, including in My Health Record. Options will include making it easier to choose which healthcare providers are authorised, and the types of information they can access.	The Agency	Short	On track	<p>The Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care are coordinating to develop a plan for consumer engagement to support the appropriate sharing of health information.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Aged Care will also lead discussions with jurisdictions on the development of an authorisation and consent model to underpin a future national health information exchange. Consumer sentiment will be an important input to these discussions over the next two years.</p>
3.7 <b>Research international practice</b> Assess the UK national minimum standards for digital health technologies and similar international policies to inform consultation on Australian approaches.	The Agency	Short	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed in the 2024-25 financial year.
3.8 <b>Care management network</b> Investigate opportunities to build capability to identify and manage individuals within a consumer's formal and informal care management network.	The Agency	Short	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed in the 2024-25 financial year.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Information sharing progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
3.9 <b>Information-sharing model agreement</b> Collaborate with stakeholders on the development of a model agreement to be used by organisations holding personal health information. This will specify the terms and conditions for sharing, discovering and acquiring information from other organisations. It will cover privacy, security, access controls, patient data rights, technical specifications and intellectual property rights.	The Agency	Short	On track	The Department of Health and Aged Care has established a Jurisdictional policy and legal working group, within the Jurisdictional Advisory Group, to work through the elements of a framework to support health information sharing, and in particular, will explore any necessary settings for early use cases.
3.10 <b>Publish–subscribe service</b> Develop a business case for a national publish–subscribe service to support actions such as alerts, changes to an individual’s health information and notifications of acute episodes. This would be available to individuals, healthcare providers and healthcare provider organisations.	The Agency	Medium	Not commenced	This medium-term action will be progressed in the 2025-26 financial year.
3.11 <b>Consistent legislative health definitions</b> Collaborate with jurisdictions and key stakeholders to develop consistent definitions to support health information sharing.	The Agency	Medium	Not commenced	This medium-term action will be progressed in the 2025-26 financial year.
3.12 <b>Harmonising legislation</b> Undertake collaborative intergovernmental work on harmonising relevant jurisdiction legislation, drawing on outcomes from Action 3.11.	All Health Departments	Medium	Not commenced	This medium-term action will be progressed in the 2025-26 financial year.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Innovation



## Innovation

Developing innovative digital products and services and building a workforce that can confidently use digital technologies will encourage and make it easier to connect to and derive value from new digitally enabled models of care that place individuals at the centre of their healthcare experience.

This priority area includes 3 actions to drive innovation and digital health capability:

- 1 action is immediate (2023-24)
- 2 actions are ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28).

### Progress highlights

Work is progressing to deliver the workforce and education program priorities in the National Digital Health Capability Action Plan 2021. Education resources are being designed to address the capability development of the workforce and will be delivered by University and VET sector partners.

The Agency has also undertaken a gap analysis of interoperability education materials and identified existing content that will be collated and published in a central location on the Agency's Interoperability Toolkit.

A HL7 AU FHIR/Sparked Connectathon was held in Sydney on 21 and 22 March 2024. Further events are in the planning stages for delivery throughout the year.



# Innovation progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
4.1 <b>Interoperability innovation challenges</b> Run interoperability innovation challenges and “connectathons” to encourage interoperability.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	An HL7 AU FHIR/Sparked Connectathon was held in Sydney on 21 and 22 March 2024. Further events are in planning stages for delivery throughout the year.
4.2 <b>Interoperability workforce</b> Implement the National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap to support the workforce required to progress interoperability.	The Agency Australasian Institute of Digital Health	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency continues to engage with partners including the Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH) to deliver the workforce and education program priorities in the National Digital Health Capability Action Plan 2021 (CAP).</p> <p>A pilot to validate the assessment tools within the Digital Hub for workforce capability will be completed soon and the data collected through this pilot will be used to inform the next stage of the Hub development. Health sector workshops will be undertaken with AIDH to gather feedback on the workforce capability and skills needed in the sector.</p> <p>Education resources are being designed to address the capability development of the workforce and will be delivered by University and VET sector partners in a pilot to upskill the future workforce in a pre-employment digital health literacy course utilising the Agency products. Evaluation and feedback from the health sector and students will enable the Agency to deliver this more broadly with the education sector. Work has also commenced with the UK National Health Service (NHS) to replicate their clinical safety courses within the Australian context.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



# Innovation progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24	
4.3	<b>Develop education content</b> Develop education content in partnership with users to increase awareness of interoperability.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	<p>The Agency has identified existing education content, and potential improvements, for consumers and healthcare providers for the priority areas of Identity, Standards and Information Sharing. The education content will be available from a central location on the Agency's Interoperability Toolkit to improve access and user experience for the intended audience.</p> <p>The Agency has extended its contract for FHIR Fundamentals for Australian Developers training with HL7 Australia, University of Melbourne and CSIRO. This training delivers a further boost to the critical skills in the sector. Further works are underway to enable development and delivery of further courses that will further support uplift of knowledge of FHIR. Other work is underway to assess training needs and delivery methods to ensure continued knowledge development and skills uplift across standards.</p>

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



## Benefits



### Benefits

Measuring digital health maturity – including the interoperability of the healthcare system – will help identify areas for investment and track progress for continuous improvement.

This priority area includes 4 actions to continuously measure digital health maturity:

- 1 action is immediate (2023-24)
- 2 actions are ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28)
- 1 action is short (2024-25 to 2026-27).

### Progress highlights

The Council for Connected Care, that governs the Interoperability Plan, met for the fourth time on 22 February 2024 and covered the information sharing priority area. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2024 and will cover the innovation and benefits priority areas.

The Agency has undertaken a review of digital maturity assessment frameworks with a focus on models relevant to interoperability. The review will be considered by the Council for Connected Care at their 2 May 2024 meeting.

Planning continues for the next national interoperability survey that will be conducted from February to April 2025.



# Benefits progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
5.1 <b>Administer interoperability survey</b> Undertake an interoperability survey of hospital, pharmacy, GP, allied health, specialist and aged care organisations periodically to measure overall progress on interoperability, starting with a baseline survey in 2022.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	The survey results from the 2022 Interoperability Benchmark Survey can be found on the Agency's <a href="#">website</a> . Planning continues for the next survey to be conducted in early 2025.
5.2 <b>Publish annual report</b> Publish an annual report on progress of the National Healthcare Interoperability Plan.	The Agency	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency has established the Council for Connected Care as the key governance body to provide strategic advice, oversee implementation of the Interoperability Plan and report on progress. The Council met for the fourth time on 22 February 2024. The meeting outcomes can be found on the Council's <a href="#">webpage</a>.</p> <p>This is the third quarterly report on progress against the 44 actions in the Interoperability Plan and will feed into the first annual report that will be published in July 2024 covering progress over the 2023-24 financial year.</p>
5.3 <b>Assess digital health maturity models</b> Collaborate with jurisdictions to assess digital health maturity models.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	The Agency has undertaken a review of digital maturity assessment frameworks, with a focus on models relevant to interoperability. The review will be considered by the Council for Connected Care at their 2 May 2024 meeting.
5.4 <b>GDHP interoperability maturity model</b> Work with the Global Digital Health Partnership to develop and apply the Global Interoperability Maturity Model.	The Agency	Short	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed in the 2024-25 financial year.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



## Policy tools



### **Policy Tools**

Governments have many policy tools that could be used to support and accelerate interoperable solutions and standards. This priority area includes 1 immediate (2023-24) action to review policy tools.

### **Progress highlights**

This action is completed as reported in the first quarterly progress report.



# Policy tools progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q3 23/24
6.1 <b>Review policy tools</b> Engage collaboratively with health departments and key stakeholders to review the effectiveness of current policy tools and assess the additional mechanisms required to support and accelerate interoperability.	The Agency	Immediate	Completed	In 2022 the Agency undertook an evidence review of policy tools to promote digital health system interoperability. The findings were shared with the Australian Government who committed to explore options to legislate information sharing in the 2023-24 Budget.

\* Actions are categorised as Immediate (2023-24); Ongoing (2023-24 to 2027-28); Short (2024-25 to 2026-27); or Medium (2025-26 to 2027-28).



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

Thank you to the Council for Connected Care and to all governments and organisations who provided input to this report.

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