



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

# Connecting Australian Healthcare

## National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028

Quarterly Progress Report  
(October to December 2023)

Issued 7 February 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 second 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

**2 actions** completed

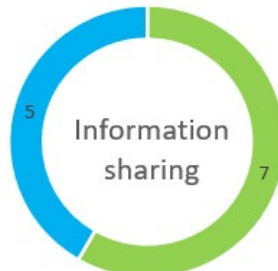
- ✓ Action 2.7 Standards guiding principles
- ✓ Action 6.1 Policy review

**32 actions** on track

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

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

**1 ongoing action** is behind schedule (Action 2.1 Terminology in digital health systems) but expected to be on track next quarter



■ 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

There has been significant engagement with jurisdictions to identify barriers to using healthcare identifiers and discuss the proposed legislative reforms to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010. A Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap to increase the adoption and use of healthcare identifiers is nearing finalisation ahead of intergovernmental sign-off in 2024.

Stage 2 of the national rollout of Provider Connect Australia (PCA) that commenced in July 2023 has seen 1,969 healthcare organisations register for PCA, along with 34 of their business partners.

Key interoperability and data flows between healthcare service directories is being discussed in the context of a national health information exchange. Data quality activities and system improvements to the National Health Services Directory continue with all work plan activities expected to be delivered by 30 June 2024.



# Identity progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q2 23/24
1.1 <b>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 has now engaged with most jurisdictions to consider the current and future use of healthcare identifiers as well as the proposed legislative reforms to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 identified through the Healthcare Identifiers Framework Project. Consultation will continue with jurisdictions as required prior to the release of an exposure draft of the proposed amendments, planned for 2024.</p> <p>The Agency also continues to engage with jurisdictions to understand their Healthcare Provider Identifiers – Individual (HPI-I) capabilities and implementation plans to upload clinical documents to My Health Record and implement electronic prescribing.</p> <p>Services Australia is preparing for the proposed Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 amendments that will allow use of healthcare identifiers in existing programs and services. Services Australia has also met with other organisations to discuss how to incorporate healthcare identifiers into their programs and processes.</p>
1.2 <b>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 continues to develop a Healthcare Identifiers Service communication and engagement plan to expand the knowledge of the important role of healthcare identifiers in ensuring an integrated health system.</p> <p>Services Australia has presented at the Intergovernmental Developer Management Forum and at the Medical Software Industry Association conference to update software developers on the current adoption of healthcare identifiers and the proposed future use cases, once the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 is amended.</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 Q2 23/24
1.2 <b>Promoting healthcare identifiers (continued)</b>	The Agency Services Australia	Ongoing	On track	Services Australia continues to progress the Birth of a Child initiative ahead of an evaluation of the service and planning with jurisdictions on broader rollout.
1.3 <b>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 Agency has updated the draft Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap to include recent decisions of government and advancements in digital systems. The draft is currently under review by lead agencies responsible for the Roadmap delivery.
1.4 <b>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 has commenced investigation and analysis to develop a series of improvements to support Healthcare Identifier Service enhancements. The current project to deliver Healthcare Identifiers Data and Service Enhancements, under the Health Delivery Modernisation program, is progressing with a planned deployment date of June 2024. As part of this work, Services Australia is reviewing healthcare identifier data matching to address issues previously identified by industry, including better IHI matching, making improvements to error messages and reducing manual intervention.

\* 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 Q2 23/24
<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 has engaged with healthcare organisations to understand their HPI-I capabilities. A series of workshops with jurisdictions were held in the last quarter to discuss their HPI-I implementation plans. This will increase the adoption and use of HPI-Is and allow jurisdictions to connect to My Health Record and implement electronic prescribing.
<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	<p>Proposed reforms to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 will support the use of healthcare identifiers by healthcare service directories.</p> <p>Jurisdictions are engaging with delivery partners (such as the Agency and Healthdirect) through the Digital Health Oversight Committee and the Agency Jurisdictional Advisory Committee where discussions are progressing on key interoperability and information flows in consideration of the NHSD.</p> <p>The ACT is working with the NHSD to further develop widgets and the use of the NHSD. There is also increased use of NHSD through the use of Health Map in service planning, communication and the use of NHSD data to validate and correct health service information held in its health applications.</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 Q2 23/24
1.8 <b>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	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 on track. Requirements for the NHSD developer centre to support FHIR integration into the NHSD and support for urgent care services in the NHSD to enable this case pathway are complete. Continuous quality improvement of directory data is an ongoing activity, linked to the Provider Connect Australia adoption program as well as the establishment of FHIR APIs with data sharing partners.
1.9 <b>Provider Connect Australia</b> Roll out and support the implementation of Provider Connect Australia.	The Agency	Immediate	On track	As of 15 December 2023, 1,969 Healthcare organisations have registered for Provider Connect Australia, along with 34 of their business partners. The project will focus on encouraging other sectors of the healthcare system to utilise PCA as a mechanism to receive updates from healthcare organisations.
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 continued engagement with the Department of Health and Aged Care and Healthdirect on the ability to use healthcare identifiers within the National Health Service Directory. Discussions will inform the feasibility assessment and identification of any legislative or legal dependencies.

\* 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 Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group met for the second time on 14 December 2023 and discussed the National Digital Health Standards Catalogue, feedback on the draft gap analysis prepared for the Aged Care Clinical Information Systems Standard, and uplift projects for the National Clinical Terminology Service.

The Sparked FHIR Accelerator program, a cooperative between the Agency, CSIRO, HL7 Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care, is advancing. The Clinical Design Group met virtually on 9 November and 5 December 2023 to provide feedback on a proposed core dataset for interoperability (Release 1). The Technical Design Group has met virtually twice per month and continues to progress development of the AUCore Implementation Guide.



# Standards progress update

Action	Lead	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q2 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	Behind schedule	Outreach and education activities have been paused to ensure maximum focus and stakeholder support is given to current AMTv4 project beta testing and ongoing testing and support of the new Medicine Authoring Tool to assist with migrating to SNOMED International's Managed Service. An education series focusing on AMTv4 will commence in 2024.
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 finalised work to update the existing HL7 Australia Provider Directory FHIR implementation guide (IG) to utilise the best-practice HL7 template-based publishing method and mandate a known identifier for all profile types contained within the IG (Organisation, Location, etc.). This will be leveraged for National Secure Messaging Network and Provider Connect Australia.</p> <p>The Agency has participated in the HL7 International ballot of the Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) specification using FHIR Logical Models expressed as FHIR StructureDefinition instances. This specification will be leveraged by the My Health Record Modernisation Program to express the Agency CDA schema as FHIR logical models. The Agency has also participated in the Clinical and Technical Design Groups established under the Sparked FHIR Accelerator, contributing to the development of the HL7 FHIR AU Core and Australian Core Data for Interoperability (AUCDI).</p>
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	The Agency has continued to update its FHIR implementation guides (Igs) to change its dependency from the HL7 AU Base FHIR IG to the HL7 AU Core FHIR IG. This work will continue in parallel with the development of the HL7 AU Core FHIR IG.

\* 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 Q2 23/24
2.3	<b>HL7 FHIR® AU usage (continued)</b>	The Agency Healthdirect	Ongoing	On track	Healthdirect has integrated the Agency's my health app to the National Health Services Directory (NHSD) to enable users to search for and book health services. The development of FHIR pipeline to support booking provider integration is currently in the test phase. Design of FHIR pipeline to support secure messaging vendor integration with the NHSD is also underway, as is integration with Provider Connect Australia (PCA) to enable the search and retrieval (FHIR) of health service details from NHSD into PCA to support improved user experience and matching and linking of data across the two systems.
2.4	<b>International standards participation</b> Support Australian participation in international standards development.	The Agency AIHW	Ongoing	On track	<p>The Agency is engaging with GS1, HL7 and SNOMED-CT internationally through conferences, meetings and standards development work including the development of standards for automatic identification and data capture capability to support data capture of patient demographics (GS1) and IT-014 with Standards Australia for ISO related activities.</p> <p>The AIHW actively participates in international standards development, on behalf of the Australian Government, in its role as the Australian Collaborating Centre with the WHO Family of International Classifications. This includes ensuring ICD-11 is fit-for-purpose for current Australian use cases, including that it is digital health ready and interoperable with other relevant terminologies and standards, including SNOMED-CT. The AIHW has established the Australian ICD-11 Taskforce that has developed a Roadmap of tasks to inform a decision on ICD-11 implementation in Australia.</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 Q2 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 are underway through the Jurisdictional Roundtable and the Australian Digital Standards Advisory Group to provide feedback on project planning for the National Digital Health Standards Catalogue to expedite delivery in 2024. Primary areas of consultation include planned structure, priorities (functions/use cases) and inclusion criteria.
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	<p>The Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group met for the second time on 14 December 2023 and discussed the National Digital Health Standards Catalogue, feedback on the draft gap analysis prepared for the Aged Care Clinical Information Systems Standard, and uplift projects for the National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS).</p> <p>The Jurisdictional Roundtable on Standards was held in November 2023. Members participated in a workshop to inform the logical structuring of content in the National Digital Health Standards Catalogue and curation priorities for jurisdictions. A second workshop discussed objectives and activities of the Sparked program.</p>
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.
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	Standards gap analysis methodology and tool will be reviewed within the Standards Catalogue project and presented to the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group in 2024.

\* 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 Q2 23/24
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	The Agency has continued to encourage collaboration among standards stakeholders through the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group. Partnership agreements with HL7 Australia and Standards Australia remain current and effective.
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	Not commenced	This short-term action will be progressed in the 2024-25 financial year.
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 undertaking 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 Agency has concluded its targeted consultation with key government and industry stakeholders. Feedback received during the consultation process is informing the final draft of the Conformance Framework, that will be presented to the Agency Board for approval to publish on the Agency’s website in 2024.

\* 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 Q2 23/24
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	Work continues as planned for the Sparked FHIR Accelerator program, a cooperative between the Agency, CSIRO, HL7 Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care. The Clinical Design Group met virtually on 9 November and 5 December 2023 to provide feedback on a proposed core dataset for interoperability (Release 1). The Technical Design Group has met virtually twice per month and continues to progress development of the AUCore Implementation Guide.

\* 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

Progress has been made towards a national health information exchange (HIE) roadmap and architecture that will enable real-time data sharing between primary, acute and aged care settings supported by all jurisdictions under the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Digital Health 2023-2027. The Agency has completed consultations with each jurisdiction to discuss and confirm the scope and phasing of the HIE, with a number of jurisdictions identified as being possible early adopters of HIE Phase 1.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is engaging with jurisdictions to understand legislative barriers to health information sharing.





# Information sharing progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q2 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. Delivery of procurement guidance is envisaged to expedite inclusion of interoperability and standards requirements within procurement processes more readily.
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 completed its bi-annual review of the API Gateway roadmap, with several opportunities under investigation.
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	Drafted guidelines for procuring digital health services and products have been reviewed to ensure they reflect stakeholder feedback and the sector needs. Revised, simplified guidelines are in the process of being drafted to enable subsequent consultation processes and expedited release in 2024.
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	The Agency continues to update the Interoperability Toolkit as new resources become available. This will include links to the Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap, standards catalogue and procurement guidelines that are all currently under development.

\* 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 Q2 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 has undertaken a gap analysis and environmental scan to support the development of a comprehensive list of digital health standards applicable to residential aged care facility clinical information systems. The findings were considered by the Australian Digital Health Standards Advisory Group at their 14 December 2023 meeting.
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	The Department of Health and Aged care is leading work to develop options for a health information exchange legislative framework to allow consumers to have more control over their health information and how it is used and shared that will inform this action.
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 Q2 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 Agency has established a Health Information Exchange Jurisdictional Advisory Group which first met on 8 December 2023 and has completed consultations with senior executive and technical stakeholders in each jurisdiction to discuss and confirm the scope and phasing of the health information exchange (HIE). 3-4 jurisdictions have been identified as being possible early adopters of HIE Phase 1. A series of workshops is underway with Tasmania that will provide input to the Phase 1 Service Model and the Agency will soon be exploring other jurisdictional engagements. The Department of Health and Aged Care is commencing engagement with jurisdictions to understand legislative barriers to health information sharing.
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

The Agency has extended its contract for FHIR Fundamentals for Australian Developers training with HL7 Australia as there has been significant demand for this training. The Agency has also commenced a gap analysis of interoperability education materials that will inform the development of materials in the future to fill any gaps.

A HL7 AU FHIR/Sparked Connectathon was held in Melbourne on 20-21 November 2023 to continue to advance the implementation of FHIR in Australia and facilitate open interoperability.



# Innovation progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q2 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 a two-day in-person event held in Melbourne on 20-21 November 2023 to continue to advance the implementation of FHIR in Australia and facilitate open interoperability. The next Connectathon is scheduled for 20-22 March 2024 in Sydney.
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	The Agency has engaged the Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH) to deliver the workforce and education program priorities in the National Digital Health Capability Action Plan 2021. This includes further refining and validating the assessment tools for different audiences including aged care, enhancing the digital health hub, and building on the initial digital health career mapping and model developed.
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 commenced an interoperability education gap analysis that will identify current education content for consumers and providers and any gaps in alignment with the Interoperability Plan.</p> <p>The Agency has extended its contract for FHIR Fundamentals for Australian Developers training with HL7 Australia as there remains significant demand for this training. A proposal for additional advanced-proficiency training is under review.</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 third time on 11 October 2023 and covered the standards priority area. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 February 2024 and will cover the information sharing priority area.

Planning has commenced for the second national interoperability survey in 2024-25 and work continues to assess different maturity frameworks. The Agency has recently introduced a sub-set of interoperability survey questions in its quarterly healthcare provider survey that will help track changes over time.



# Benefits progress update

Action	Lead(s)	Timeframe*	Status	Update Q2 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 has commenced for the next survey to be conducted in 2024-25. A sub-set of interoperability questions are included in a quarterly healthcare provider survey that commenced in November 2023 that will help track changes.
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 third time on 11 October 2023. The meeting outcomes can be found on the Council's <a href="#">webpage</a>.</p> <p>This is the second 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 is finalising a review of digital maturity assessment frameworks, with a focus on potential models relevant to interoperability.
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 Q2 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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