



Council for Connected Care

A better-connected healthcare system for all Australians

Communiqué

The sixth meeting of the Council for Connected Care (Council) was held virtually on 8 August 2024.

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and Chair of the Council, acknowledged the significant progress that has been made in interoperability initiatives since the Council's first meeting in June 2023 and thanked members for creating a positive culture that is driving progress.

Members reviewed key achievements over the past year to connect Australia's healthcare system as outlined in the [2023-24 Annual Progress Report](#). These achievements include:

- [National Healthcare Identifiers Roadmap 2023-2028](#) to increase the adoption and use of healthcare identifiers in health and care settings
- [Digital Health Standards Catalogue](#) to provide a single point of access for relevant standards in digital health
- Supporting the adoption and implementation of national interoperability standards, such as FHIR and SNOMED CT, through education, training and testing resources
- [Conformance framework](#) to ensure digital health products and systems are operated in a manner that aligns with safety, security and interoperability standards
- [Draft Digital Health Procurement Guidelines](#) to provide guidance to healthcare organisations seeking to purchase digital health solutions and harmonise interoperability requirements in ICT procurement
- Drafting national Health Information Exchange architecture in consultation with jurisdictions and key stakeholders
- Measuring maturity through the [2022 Interoperability Benchmark Survey](#) and monitoring progress against the actions in the Interoperability Plan.

Members also reviewed the performance of the Council as outlined in its inaugural [2023-24 Annual Review](#). Council meetings were well attended in 2023-24 and all members who responded to an annual review survey rated the Council as very or somewhat effective.

Members discussed the Council's 2024-25 workplan and agreed that for the coming twelve months the Council would undertake a series of interactive, face-to-face sessions focusing on how members and the organisations, and stakeholders they represent, can work together to bring about real, meaningful change. 'Interoperability in action' discussions will consider the pain points in a person's health and care journey, along with vulnerable populations in the community to ensure no one is left behind on the digital health transformation journey.



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency

The Aged Care and Community Provider Association (ACCPA) provided a preview of these ‘interoperability in action’ discussions by showcasing its innovation strategy, “InnovAGEING” and current activities under each of its four pillars – data insights, technology transformation, research, and capacity building – that will bring digital maturity and innovation across the aged care sector.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in Sydney on 14 November 2024 and will focus on older Australians and transitions in and out of aged care, including medication safety.