



Media release

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Opportunity to influence global interoperability health standards

A once in a decade opportunity for Australian clinical informatics, terminology, software developers, and health policy professionals to influence global interoperability standards will be on offer in Sydney.

The HL7 Sydney 2020 Working Group Meeting and Connectathon will allow the local health informatics community to meet with global interoperability experts, and to influence and progress open and secure exchange of patient information across the Australian health system.

This international meeting will run from 2-7 February and will showcase global leaders in digital health and interoperability. It will include working group sessions on the development of practical health data interoperability standards to support clinical practice, management, delivery and evaluation of healthcare services.

HL7 Australia Chair Jason Steen said that HL7 Sydney 2020 is an exciting opportunity to bring this global meeting to Sydney.

“Healthcare systems and products arrive at our shores adhering to international not local standards. Understanding and influencing these standards will allow the local community to more easily develop systems and approaches that take advantage of the HL7 and FHIR global initiative,” Mr Steen said.

HL7 Sydney 2020 is both for those wishing to build a longitudinal patient view across disparate systems and for those wishing to build healthcare systems to export to the rest of the globe.

A Connectathon will be held for FHIR implementers and developers to gain practical hands-on experience developing FHIR-based solutions through participation in one of many available tracks. Education sessions will be available for all skill levels while an industry workshop will discuss how to leverage open and available industry standards to remove barriers to sharing evidenced-based healthcare knowledge.

Acting CEO Ronan O’Connor said the Agency is working collaboratively with HL7 Australia and other industry, clinical and jurisdiction stakeholders to leverage digital health foundations, the HL7 FHIR standard, and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for exchanging digital information.

“HL7 Sydney 2020 is an excellent opportunity to help strengthen existing ties between the Australian and international HL7 communities. It will also ensure Australian clinical software vendors are well equipped to develop products that are interoperable with systems in and from international markets,” Mr O’Connor said.

Further information

[HL7 Sydney 2020](#) will be held from 2-7 February 2020 at the Sydney International Convention Centre.

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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 operates the National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS). It 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.

About HL7 Australia

Founded in 1998, HL7 Australia is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization that supports the creation and effective use of health informatics standards in Australia. HL7 Australia is the local affiliate of Health Level Seven International (HL7), an ANSI-accredited standards developing organisation. HL7 is dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.