

Outcome statement of the Stakeholder Reference Forum

November 12, 2008

CEO presentation

Peter Fleming opened the Forum with an update on the NEHTA work program. He gave stakeholder representatives the results of a national public opinion poll commissioned by NEHTA which showed more than 80 per cent of those surveyed said they would use an Individual Electronic Health Record.

Mr Fleming reiterated NEHTA's commitment to collaboration and engagement to ensure the success of the work program. He said NEHTA would work closely with its own clinical leads group and stakeholders across the breadth of the healthcare sector to understand local models and national benefits, listen to what works and avoid duplication of effort.

The forum discussed the need for tertiary education and training opportunities to support the growth of e-health.

International update

Members were advised of news and highlights from the recent International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) meeting. NEHTA participated in an international workshop around the integration of standards which covered key issues and ways to move ahead to address them. Workshop participants included Canada's Health Infoway and the UK's NHS Connecting for Health and had representation from the e-health programs of: Australia, Canada, UK, Denmark, European Union, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore. They were joined on the second day by standards organisations HL7, IHTSDO, OpenEHR and representatives of multi-national vendors Cerner, iSoft, BT, EMIS, Microsoft, Oracle and IBM.

Terminology overview

In an overview on the National Terminology Service, members were told SNOMED is the primary clinical terminology chosen for Australian e-health implementations. Stakeholder ownership, input and validation will be essential for the adoption of SNOMED.

Certification strategy

Moves towards a certification strategy for compliance, conformance and accreditation was discussed. It was recognised by members that industry must be involved in development of the resulting certification strategy.

Preview of e-health blueprints

A series of e-health blueprints designed to demonstrate the way e-health systems may be delivered nationally were previewed by members and will be released publicly in the new year.

Consumer Care Continuum Blueprint: The care management information flows, role of packages and support for individual electronic health record supporting patient care management.

National e-health infrastructure Blueprint: The relationship between the key building blocks supporting a national e-Health approach. It outlines the overall approach and identifies the key supporting materials defining the system operations.

Community Architecture Blueprint: Describes in detail the operations across the various providers exchanging health information showing access, connectivity and implementation at a local community context.

Connectivity Blueprint: Outlines the technical features supporting universal connectivity, identity, secure communications and services discovery across various adoption models.

Identity & Access Management Blueprint: Describes the identity management lifecycle that facilitates and supports the secure and trusted exchange of clinical and administrative information.

National e-Health Information Assets Blueprint: Identifies and describes the key reference information and classifications assets that exist to support the exchange of clinical and administrative information.

Electronic prescriptions transfer

Members heard a presentation from the National Chief Information Officers Forum (NCIOF) on a model for electronic transfer of prescriptions which documents key policy issues and business processes.

Input into the NEHTA work program

Members agreed they would provide advice and input to NEHTA as part of clinical solutions packages development for pathology, referral, discharge and medications management. Discharge Summary would be the first package to be fully developed with the other three following later in 2009.

Outcome Statements will be provided after each meeting, so that participating organisations can distribute them widely to their constituents. The Outcome Statement will also appear on the NEHTA website at www.nehta.gov.au. For further information please contact NEHTA on (02) 8298 2600