



Media release

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New plan to deliver digital health capability across the health workforce to respond to the needs of consumers now and in the future.

Australia's health system faces many challenges, including an ageing population, increasing consumer expectations and continuing pressures on Australia's health workforce.

In the face of these challenges, digital health is transforming the way that many patients manage their health and experience healthcare and driving a step change in the delivery of health services.

The Capability Action Plan (CAP) – designed to support Australia's health workforce to continue to develop the skills they need to deliver the best care for Australians in an increasingly digital world - sets out priority actions that are required across the workforce to respond to the needs of consumers, now and in the future.

The CAP is a collaboration between the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) and the Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH) in partnership with key stakeholders from across the health ecosystem. Under the CAP the Agency and AIDH will work together over the next two years to support healthcare workers to deliver virtual and connected care to Australians by equipping them with the tools and capabilities that they need to operate as effectively as possible in this rapidly evolving environment.

Agency CEO Amanda Cattermole said “across the health sector concerted action is required to build the capability of the workforce so that the benefits of digital health are realised for more patients in more settings. Workforce strategy development and planning requires consultation, including with professional colleges, universities and educators and employers in the public and private sectors. Coordination of effort is also vital, and the AIDH, with its strong existing knowledge, relationships and independence in this area, is well positioned to take on this role.”

AIDH CEO Dr Louise Schaper said the Institute's primary focus for the last four years has been advancing the digital capability of the health workforce.

“The Institute, its Fellows and Members, already work with many health professions on workforce advancement, through accreditation and training, with programs that start with the basics of digital health to more advanced workforce-based programs.”

“The nursing and midwifery workforce has started to upskill by assessing capability in public and private sectors and creating a starting point to build programs for education and training. It's time to take this to all health professions on a larger scale” she said.

The CAP, which can be found at digitalhealth.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-plans, is a two-year program of work that sets out the initiatives including working towards standard capability frameworks, guidelines, resources and tools identified through previous work, planning, and ongoing sector consultation to equip Australia's health workforce for a connected, digitally-enabled future.



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About the Australian Digital Health Agency

When it comes to improving the health of all Australians, the role of digital innovation and connection is a vital part of a modern, accessible healthcare system. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, digital health has seen exponential growth in relevance and importance, making it more pertinent than ever for all Australians and healthcare providers.

Better patient healthcare and health outcomes are possible when you have a health infrastructure that can be safely accessed, easily used and responsibly shared.

To achieve this, the [National Digital Health Strategy](#) is establishing the foundations for a sustainable health system that constantly improves. It underpins and coordinates work that is already happening between governments, healthcare providers, consumers, innovators and the technology industry.

For further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au.

The Australian Digital Health Agency is a statutory authority in the form of a corporate Commonwealth entity.

About the Australasian Institute of Digital Health

The Australasian Institute of Digital Health is the peak body for digital health representing a united and influential single voice for health informatics and digital health leaders and practitioners.

The vision of the Institute is “healthier lives, digitally enabled”. Fellows and Members of the Institute represent a diverse range of professions involved in delivering health and social care. This includes health informaticians, clinicians, researchers, healthcare managers and executives, data analysts, designers, project managers, business analysts, technologists and innovators.

As a leading member of the global health informatics and digital health community, the Institute is also the forum for sharing international best practice, digital healthcare trends and health system innovation.