



# **Healthcare Identifiers Framework Project**

## **Public consultation - Appendices**



# Appendices

## *Appendix 1: Review of the Healthcare Identifiers Framework and MHR*

- [Healthcare Identifiers Act and Service Review - Final Report November 2018](#)
- [Review of the My Health Records Legislation - Final Report December 2020](#)

## *Appendix 2: Australian Government health, aged care and disability strategies and plans that support connected care and use of HIs*

- [Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032](#): The Primary Care Plan identifies 12 action areas under three workstreams: future focused primary healthcare; person-centred primary healthcare supported by funding reform; and integrated care, locally delivered. It aims to support primary healthcare providers to improve technology in telehealth and virtual care; in digital health; and in other healthcare technologies. The wider use of HIs is fundamental to the successful implementation of many of the foundations for reform identified in the plan, driving improvements in care access, quality, value, and integration.
- [2020–25 National Health Reform Agreement \(NHRA\)](#): The NHRA is an agreement between the Australian Government and state and territory governments which commits to improving health outcomes for Australians by providing coordinated, connected care in the community. Its objectives depend on effective identification of individuals, providers, and healthcare organisations.
- [Australia's National Digital Health Strategy 2018-2022](#): Australia's National Digital Health Strategy (currently being updated) outlines seven strategic priority outcomes to be achieved by 2022. It focuses on the benefits that health system interoperability has for patients and providers in terms of efficiency and clinical safety. It emphasises the importance of accurate identification of individuals and providers in building confidence in clinical information systems and data exchanges. It also emphasises the need to create a regulatory environment where innovative digital technologies can emerge, while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.
- [Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#): The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was established to look at the quality of aged care services and whether those services met the needs of the Australian community. This included care for older people living at home; people living with dementia, and people living in residential aged care, including younger people with disabilities. The recommendations of the Royal Commission are being reviewed to identify how HIs can be used to improve outcomes for people in aged and residential care settings.
- [Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031](#): Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 calls on all Australians to ensure people with disability can participate as equal members of society. Using HIs will enable healthcare providers to always have access to the right information to meet the needs of people with disability.
- [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#): The National Agreement on Closing the Gap aims to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments to work together to overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and achieve life outcomes equal to those of all Australians. It has 17 targets across education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and languages. Access to and connecting information is critical to implementing the agreement. This includes the use of HIs to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives.
- **Aged Care Digital Strategy**: The Aged Care Digital Strategy (due for release) aims to strengthen the connection between digital health and aged care to support better outcomes for older Australians. By ensuring that information is connected, secure

and safe it will help health and aged care providers, and recipients make informed choices about care, and will help services provide safe, high quality and dignified care. HIs underpin the ability to share safely and securely.

- **Stronger Rural Health Strategy (SHRS)**: The SRHS aims to build a sustainable, high-quality health workforce that is distributed across the country according to community need. It focuses on rural and remote communities and other areas that have difficulty attracting doctors, nurses, and other allied health professionals. The broad use of HIs will make it easier to share health information between services in rural and remote communities.
- **Connecting Australian Health Care: National Healthcare Interoperability Plan**: The Interoperability Plan (due for release) will set out a national agreement on the actions and initiatives that will be undertaken to achieve the ‘interoperability’ objectives, in the National Digital Health Strategy and other strategic plans. These include the NHRA, the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan and response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Priority 1 in the Interoperability Plan focuses on enhancing ‘Identity’. It outlines priority initiatives that will ensure that individuals, healthcare providers and healthcare provider organisations are uniquely and correctly identified when exchanging health information.

### **Appendix 3: Definition of a Health Service**

The meaning of health service is defined in Section 6FB of the *Privacy Act 1988* as:

1. An activity performed in relation to an individual is a **health service** if the activity is intended or claimed (expressly or otherwise) by the individual or the person performing it:
  - a. to assess, maintain or improve the individual’s health; or
  - b. where the individual’s health cannot be maintained or improved—to manage the individual’s health; or
  - c. to diagnose the individual’s illness, disability, or injury; or
  - d. to treat the individual’s illness, disability or injury or suspected illness, disability, or injury; or
  - e. to record the individual’s health for the purposes of assessing, maintaining, improving, or managing the individual’s health.
2. The dispensing on prescription of a drug or medicinal preparation by a pharmacist is a **health service**.
3. To avoid doubt:
  - a. a reference in this section to an individual’s health includes the individual’s physical or psychological health; and
  - b. an activity mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) that takes place in the course of providing aged care, palliative care, or care for a person with a disability is a **health service**.
4. The regulations may prescribe an activity that, despite subsections (1) and (2) is not to be treated as a **health service** for the purposes of this Act.

**Appendix 4: Healthcare providers that are eligible for an HPI-I, include but are not limited to:**

Ahpra Regulated Professions	Other Nationally Regulated Professions
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice	Association of Massage Therapists
Chinese Medicine	Audiology Australia
Chiropractic	Australasian College of Paramedicine
Dental practice	Australian Association of Social Workers
Medical practice (doctors)	Australian College of Audiology
Medical radiation practice	Australian Counselling Association
Nursing	Australian Music Therapy Association
Midwifery	Australian Natural Therapists Association Ltd
Occupational therapy	Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association
Optometry	Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors
Osteopathy	Australian Traditional Medicine Society
Paramedicine	Complementary Medicine Association
Pharmacy	Dietitians Australia
Physiotherapy	Exercise and Sports Science Australia
Podiatry	Holistic Therapists Australia Inc
Psychology	Human Genetics Society of Australasia
	Massage and Myotherapy Association
	National Herbalists Association of Australia
	Pedorthic Association of Australia
	Psychotherapy and Counselling Federations of Australia
	Speech Pathology Australia
	The Australian New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapies Association
	Association of Transpersonal and Experiential Psychotherapists Inc

**Appendix 5: Prohibition of use of HIs for insurance and employment purposes**

Section 14(2) of the [Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010](#) prohibits the collection, use and disclosure of healthcare identifiers for the following purposes:

- (a) underwriting a contract of insurance that covers the healthcare recipient; or
- (b) determining whether to enter into a contract of insurance that covers the healthcare recipient; or
- (c) determining whether a contract of insurance covers the healthcare recipient in relation to a particular event; or
- (d) employing the healthcare recipient.