

Health Information Strategy Action Committee



Note from Paul Cressey

Chair of the Health Information Strategy Action Committee

New Zealand continues to be at the forefront in the use of information to support effective health and disability services. In New Zealand we understand that the provision of health and disability services must be supported by national, regional and local information systems that enable

flows of information to support collaborative services centred on the consumer.

To further this approach the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand (HIS-NZ) has been developed by a group of people from the sector and has a focus five years and beyond. Its implementation will be driven by the sector to meet emerging challenges and remedy identified gaps in health information systems in New Zealand. HIS-NZ identifies 12 priority areas for action, called Action Zones.

The Health Information Strategy for New Zealand proposes an evolutionary approach to developing an electronic health record distributed at local, regional, and national levels, with the richest and most detailed information about a patient kept locally. It focuses on the communication and connectivity required for the sector to use and share this information effectively to deliver better health outcomes.

HIS-NZ creates opportunities for and impacts on all groups in the health and disability sector, from community care providers to health care funders.

HIS-NZ builds on the momentum from the WAVE project by enhancing collaboration and co-ordination, and by supporting existing local, regional and New Zealand-wide information technology strategies.

HIS-NZ requires leadership as well as governance and oversight. To achieve this a Ministerial Advisory Committee representative of the sector, the Health Information Strategy Action Committee (HISAC), has been established.

HIS-NZ principal interventions

Hard copies of HIS-NZ are available by e-mailing moh@wickliffe.co.nz or by calling 04-496 2277 and quoting HP number 4155.

The key areas identified by the health and disability sector as requiring action focus on three principal interventions.

The Strategy can also be viewed or downloaded on www.nzhis.govt.nz/publications/strategy.

- **Increase the overall participation** rate in the sector for information sharing by increasing the degree of computerisation and ensuring that connections and networks are in place for the appropriate and safe sharing of information. Accelerate progress amongst the weaker links in our evolution towards a connected sector.
- **Enable collaboration** between different parts of the sector in providing care to consumers by ensuring the key information anchors are in place that enable collaboration, as well as ensuring that electronic information can be shared and accessed in a standardised fashion. Create basic access to electronic data in the less mature parts of the sector, as well as more sophisticated collaboration in the more mature parts of the sector.
- **Improve targeting of scarce resources** by making more informed decisions by using data for analysis, so that the outcome of our programmes and investment decisions can be assessed, and so that we can prioritise effectively. Allow the more sophisticated parts of the sector to be more precise and incisive in their interventions, their service delivery and their targeting of populations.

The Hon Annette King, previous Minister of Health, launched HIS-NZ in August 2005.

'In an increasingly collaborative health and disability sector it is through coordination and sharing that we realise the true value of information – that it grows more valuable as we give it away.' Hon Annette King

HISAC website

The HISAC website is now live and will be a vital point of communication between the health and disability sector and HISAC. The website will provide updates on progress made towards achieving the Action Zones. Site development continues.

To receive notice of changes to the [HISAC website](http://www.nzhis.govt.nz) please send an email to enquiries@hisac.govt.nz and write 'subscribe' in the text.

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HISAC's primary role is to provide leadership, oversight and governance for implementing HIS-NZ. HISAC will ensure the views and interests of the health and disability sector are fundamental to the implementation of HIS-NZ's Action Zones. HISAC will also ensure transparency and co-ordination for HIS-NZ and will identify opportunities for innovation.

The Terms of Reference for HISAC can be viewed on the [HISAC website](#).

The current HISAC members were members of the Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO) established in 2003 to represent the sector to develop health information standards for New Zealand. The members agreed to accept responsibility for the new Terms of Reference for HISAC and to oversee initial implementation of HIS-NZ. HISO will remain as a sub-committee of HISAC, and sit alongside the two other sub-committees, Infrastructure and National Collections, providing expert advice to inform the implementation of HIS-NZ.

How will HIS-NZ affect me?

Implementation of HIS-NZ will lead to a health and disability sector where:

As a consumer you will increasingly receive care that is targeted to your health needs and provided in a co-ordinated way because your care providers will be better informed. You will be increasingly more directly engaged, by electronically interacting with providers, where appropriate.

As a care provider you will make more informed decisions at the point of care because relevant patient information will be more accessible and you will have immediate access to evidence-based knowledge. You will be able to collaborate with other professionals through shared systems and data around chronic conditions and disease management programmes.

As a provider organisation you will be able to configure services to achieve the best outcomes for your customer populations because you will be better informed about their health status.

As a funder you will have information about the health status of your customer population, which services should be provided and how effectively services are delivering desired outcomes. This will enable you to target services more selectively, as well as being able to analyse population health and disability data.

As a policy maker or researcher you will be able to identify which interventions will have the biggest impact on improving the health and participation outcomes of all New Zealanders.

As an information system vendor you will be more able to deliver systems fit for purposes aligned to strategic priorities.

The current membership of HISAC:

Paul Cressey, Chair	Ken Leech
Chai Chuah	Murray Burns
David Rankin	Sandy Grey
Debbie Chin	Tim Gardner
Helmut Modlik	Julian Inch

Nominations for HISAC:

The terms of the current HISAC members end in February 2006 and a process to nominate HISAC members is now underway.

Nominations are being sought from organisations within the health and disability sector, including from the seven groups and organisations set out in HISAC's Terms of Reference. Nominees are required to complete a Statutory Bodies and Committees Application Form which can be accessed through the [HISAC website](#) or at www.moh.govt.nz.

Nominations close on Tuesday 20 December 2005.

HISAC Office Vacancies

The HISAC Office is currently recruiting a HISAC Manager and HISAC Programme Manager to assist the Committee achieve the objectives of HIS-NZ. The HISAC Office is housed at the New Zealand Health Information Service of the Ministry of Health in Wellington.

HISAC expects the HISAC Office to be strategy-driven, action-oriented, sector-facing and business-savvy. A suggested structure of seven positions (including the HISAC Manager and the Programme Manager) has been developed and will be finalised with the incoming Manager on appointment.

It is hoped the appointment of the HISAC Manager will be made prior to Christmas. Both positions are available as permanent positions or as fixed term contracts or by secondment, preferably for two years. For more information about these positions visit www.hisac.govt.nz or phone 04-496 2314.

How to contact HISAC:

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