

Health Information Strategy Action Committee



Note from Paul Cressey

Chair of the Health Information Strategy Action Committee

The Minister of Health has recently announced the members of HISAC for the next two years. Joining the committee for the first time are Tony Cooke (Chief Information Officer, Hutt Valley DHB),

Harry Pert (General Practitioner, Rotorua General Practice Group) and Andrea Pettett (CEO Health IT Cluster). Our retiring members are Murray Burns (CEO Pharmacy Guild), Sandy Grey (independent midwife)

and Ken Leech (Chief Information Officer, ProCare). I want to acknowledge their contribution to health sector information initiatives over the last three years, initially through their membership of HISO and more recently as inaugural members of HISAC. The success of sector-led initiatives like HISO, the NZ Health Network and the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 depends on people like Sandy, Ken and Murray who have the vision and commitment to invest time and energy in supporting sector-wide initiatives. Making this commitment can generate pressures within their own organisations but it is vital if the sector is going to see the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 fully implemented in the next three to five years.

Progress on the Action Zones

HISAC's planning for the implementation of each of the 12 Action Zones in the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 starts with the preparation of two scoping documents, the Initial View and the Preliminary Scope. Initial Views are not set in concrete. They set out HISAC's initial understanding of what each Action Zone will cover and form the basis for more detailed scoping work in the Preliminary Scopes.

Work is now underway on nine Initial Views adding to the three already completed.

While the Initial Views are largely a HISAC internal understanding, identified people from the health sector have been and are assisting. HISAC appreciates the support of their managers and employers. These people are:

- National Network Strategy - Stephen Miller from the Ministry of Health
- NHI Promotion - Elizabeth Harding from Counties Manukau DHB
- HPI Implementation - Tim Gardner, GP from Outram in Otago and a HISAC member
- ePharmacy - Sean Harbour, IPAC
- eLabs - Sean Harbour, IPAC

- Chronic Care and Disease Management - Kim Arcus from Counties Manukau DHB
- Electronic Referrals - Tony Cooke, from Hutt Valley DHB and HISAC member
- National Outpatients Collection - John Hazeldine from the Ministry of Health
- National Primary Care Collection - Sam Jacobs from Harbour PHO
- AZ 11 National System Access - Russell Craig from the Ministry of Health.

Work has also started on developing Preliminary Scope documents for five Action Zones. These Preliminary Scopes will be informed by the sector and, in some cases, may offer more than one option for implementing an Action Zone.

The Initial Views will be used to obtain sector feedback on the Action Zones. They will also be lodged on HISAC's web-site and disseminated in other ways as they are finalised.

The National Systems Development team in the Ministry of Health is developing the Preliminary Scope for the National Network Strategy. HISAC sees developing and implementing a Next Generation Health

Improving New Zealanders' healthcare and health by having

• the right information

• in the right place

• at the right time

Progress on the Action Zones cont'd

Network, that builds forward from the current NZ Health Network, as vital to the successful implementation of the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 as it underpins all the other Action Zones.

The HISAC team working on the Action Zones has recently been joined by Mike Cartlidge and Andy Hotchkiss, consultants with significant experience in sector engagement. The team will shortly be arranging to visit key sector representatives as part of preparing the first Preliminary Scopes.

What's happening with the NZ Health Network?

The NZ Health Network community provides real-time and messaging connectivity between health practitioners, providers, funders and policy makers. Six hundred organisations are now connected to the NZ Health Network and registrations have been averaging 25 per month since June 2005.

With its Infrastructure Sub-committee being appointed as the governance body of the NZ Health Network, HISAC is putting in place a simplified registration process, providing a registration pack, providing easier access to NZ Health Network information, security policies and guidelines, and considering enhancements to the current network.

Feedback from sector meetings

The Chair and people from the HISAC Office have continued to meet with sector organisations. Themes emerging from the meetings with DHB CIOs include the recognition of HISAC's leadership and opportunities to minimise duplication of resource and effort. CIOs have also said that they are willing to engage proactively with HISAC.

PHOs and GPs have asked when will they be able to receive electronic discharges; when can they exchange patients' notes electronically; and when can they have online NIR access from within their PMS?

Vendor organisations are looking for more standards.

Engagement with the sector is an ongoing priority for HISAC. If you would like an opportunity for people from your organisation to meet with HISAC, please contact the HISAC Office.

Auditor General's report on health information

Paul Cressey issued a press release, welcoming the report Progress with priorities for health information management and information technology that was tabled in Parliament on 22 March 2006 by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). Some extracts from the press release follow.

"HISAC is pleased that the report's recommendations confirm that the directions and decisions already taken by HISAC are the right ones. The OAG recommendations set a powerful direction, and confirm a strong leadership and accountability role for HISAC in the implementation of the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand (HIS-NZ)"

"The OAG has urged us to act quickly to further develop and expand the use of the secure NZ Health Network across the sector. We are currently doing that."

The OAG also recommended increased sector investment in the work being done by teams of health professionals to develop health information standards. "These standards provide the basis for consistent and acceptable levels of quality, performance, reliability and safety in all aspects of health information management. Many new standards will have to be developed over the next three to five years. We welcome the Auditor General's support for this work".

The report is available on www.oag.govt.nz.

Highlights from the HINZ primary care seminar

Stimulating and proactive approaches to population-based information management by the PHO sector were delivered in presentations at the HINZ primary care seminar on 10 March 2006 by Fiona Thomson (Rotorua General Practice Group), Ken Leech (ProCare), Richard Kelly (Kowhai Health Trust) and Susan Turner and Sam Jacobs (Harbour PHO). These presentations are now available on www.hinz.org.nz

Engaging and working with the sector is essential to HISAC so if you would like HISAC representatives to participate in any sector forums or meetings about HIS-NZ or HISAC, please contact the HISAC Office.

Put HISAC's web-site on your list of favourites
www.hisac.govt.nz