

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING HIS-NZ

HISAC Report to the Minister for the period to 31 December 2005

Business Plan

HISAC submitted its draft Business Plan to the Minister for approval in December 2005. The Business Plan summarised the anticipated Work Programme deliverables under four headings: implementation of Action Zones, Sub-committee projects, stakeholder communications and governance. This report follows the same structure.

REPORT AGAINST HISAC'S PLANNED WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 Implementation of the Action Zones

The Business Plan identified separately the deliverables anticipated by 31 December 2005 with further deliverables due by 30 June 2006.

Anticipated deliverables to 31 December 2005	Progress
A comprehensive Action Zone Initiation Process approved	Achieved
A set of key messages (vision, concept, strategy and key components) developed for all Action Zones as the basis of on-going discussion	Key messages drafted and incorporated in Indicative Scopes
Achievement of the following milestones and deliverables for specific Action Zones	
<u>Action Zone 5 eLabs</u> Indicative Scope document approved	Achieved
<u>Action Zone 7 Chronic care and disease management.</u> Significant engagement with the stakeholders in this Action Zone commenced with a view to enhancing their capacity to engage with HIS-NZ	Achieved
<u>Action Zone 12 Anchoring framework</u> Indicative Scope document drafted.	Achieved
One standard approved	Not achieved - decision now expected in April 2006 (see section 2.2.3).

Comment

HISAC's **Action Zone Initiation Process (AZIP)**, approved by HISAC in October 2005, provides a rigorous process for initiating and monitoring work on the Action Zones. It incorporates ideas from HIS-NZ and best practice advice from other sources such as the Government "Guidelines for the Monitoring of Major Information Technology Projects". A diagrammatic summary of the AZIP is in Appendix One.

Early stages of the process require the development of two key documents for each Action Zone: the **Indicative Scope** and the **Preliminary Scope and Approach**. The former provides an indicative definition of the Action Zone to ensure that HISAC members and the HISAC Office start with the same understanding of what the Action Zone covers. The Indicative Scope documents provide the basis for the development of the Preliminary Scope and Approach documents through engagement with sector groups with a stake in the Action Zone and advisors. These planning processes establish the sound foundation necessary for the development of detailed project plans as recommended in the Auditor General's draft report on WAVE¹.

HISAC considered and approved the Indicative Scope for Action Zone 5 eLabs. HISAC also considered draft Indicative Scope documents for two other Action Zones (1 and 12). HISAC anticipates more rapid progress towards approval of these and the remaining Indicative Scope documents during the first half of 2006, now that agreement has been reached on the nature of the documentation required and additional expertise has been seconded from the sector to complete the requisite information gathering and consultation with the sector.

Review of the indicative Implementation Roadmap

Under its Terms of Reference, one of HISAC's early tasks is "reviewing the indicative Implementation Roadmap in the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 and recommending a forward timeline to the Minister". HIS-NZ states that the Roadmap *illustrates the high-level timelines for the sequencing of action zone activities ...and ...shows key management milestones for HIS-NZ*. Other text notes that *the governance processes in place for executing HIS-NZ will be used to adjust timelines and project activities as the sector evolves*.

HISAC has considered the indicative Implementation Roadmap on many occasions as part of developing more rigorous processes for oversight of and initiating work on the Action Zones. As a result HISAC has reached the view that:

- The indicative Implementation Roadmap (the Roadmap), was a snapshot of known or anticipated activity in the Action Zones underway in the sector at the time; it was not a plan for what needed to happen.
- HISAC has been including, and will continue to include, information from the Roadmap as it develops more detailed plans for the implementation of the Action Zones.
- It is already clear from preliminary scanning of HIS-NZ related projects that the work underway in the sector differs from that identified in the Roadmap.
- The Roadmap does not address resourcing issues, for example:
 - where implementation can be funded by re-allocation of existing capital and operational funding
 - where new money will be required
 - the availability of sufficient people with the knowledge, skills, influence and credibility to drive the various initiatives.

¹ The Office of the Auditor General has reviewed the performance of the Ministry of Health in implementing the WAVE report. His report is expected to be released in March 2006. WAVE stands for Working to Add Value through E-Information. The Wave Report was produced in 2000.

HISAC considers that the rigorous scoping processes it is pursuing will provide a resilient basis for the subsequent development of proposals and business cases by sector organisations. HISAC has a target of completing all 12 Preliminary Scope and Approach documents by 30 June 2006. Collectively these documents will form the basis of the Implementation Plan for HIS-NZ as a whole with information on resource commitments and requirements, dependencies between action zones, agreed milestones and forward timelines.

It is proposed that the HISAC Business Plan for 2006/7 will include, as one of the deliverables for 31 December 2006, the production of a resilient, integrated Implementation Plan that addressed Action Zone dependencies and resource implications.

Sub-committee Projects

Infrastructure Sub-committee

The main focus of this Sub-committee is Action Zone 1 National Network Strategy. Key responsibilities include the development of protocols and standards for maintaining privacy, connectivity and security for the health and disability sector communications technology. The Infrastructure Sub-committee (ISC) also inherited on-going responsibilities under the Health Network Code of Practice as the Health Network Governance Body.² The Health Network is a secure, national electronic network that allows the safe exchange of health information between hospital clinicians, general practitioners, funders and other providers. Currently all District Health Boards, 30% of general practice and some other health providers have been registered to use the Health Network.

Health Information Standards Sub-committee

It has a well established work programme that complements and supports activities within several of the 12 Action Zones. Progress to 31 December 2005 against the planned work programme is summarised in the table on the next page.

Standards are specifications which define materials, methods, processes or practices. They provide a basis for determining consistent and acceptable minimum levels of quality, performance, safety and reliability. To develop standards, HISO sets up Expert Advisory Committees composed of representatives of organisations interested in or affected by the subject matter.

Standards currently under development will play important roles in delivery of several Action Zones. The standard for Referrals, Status Reports and Discharges is essential to the delivery of Action Zone 6 Discharge Summaries and Action Zone 8 Electronic Referrals. The standard will ensure greater national consistency in the quality of the information provided in hospital discharge summaries to primary care providers irrespective of where the patient is discharged. The standard will also assist clinicians who wish to communicate electronically with other care providers regarding the treatment of their patients. Clinicians may, for example, be seeking a second opinion or requesting an assessment from a specialist or someone in another discipline.

² In accordance with the HISAC Terms of Reference, the Ministry of Health has recognised the Infrastructure Sub-committee as the Health Network Governance Body under the Health Network Code of Practice

The standard for Pathology and Radiology Messaging will contribute to Action Zone 5 eLabs. The purpose of Action Zone 5 is to improve clinical decision-making and patient safety and improve efficiencies in the workflows of ordering tests and accessing results.

HISAC also considered a detailed project brief proposing that the Sub-committee develop a data set, messaging standards and business processes to support ePharmacy including electronic transmission and receipt of prescriptions. HISAC determined that Medicines Terminology Standards and the Data Dictionary were higher priorities for Action Zone 5 ePharmacy and directed the HISAC Office to initiate work in this area with HISO.

Anticipated milestones and deliverables to 31 December 2005	Progress
<u>Pathology and Radiology Messaging</u> Expert Advisory Committee established and meetings underway to develop the standards	Achieved
<u>Referrals, Status Reports and Discharge Summaries</u> Expert Advisory Committee established and meetings underway to develop the standards	Achieved
<u>Health Workforce Information System Data Standards</u> No specific milestone set for this period. Reference Group is working towards publishing approved output by June 2006	On target
<u>Interactive Communications Data Repository</u> Expert Advisory Committee established and development meetings underway	Achieved
<u>Interactive Communications Technical Standard</u> No specific milestone set for 31 December. Decision on commencement will be made when draft from pilot exercise is available.	Pilot exercise underway
<u>Adoption of ICD-10AM and ICD-0 Coding Standards</u> No specific milestone set for this period.	Consultation underway
<u>Geospatial Referencing by Coordinates Location Standard</u> No specific milestone set for this period.	On target
<u>Monitoring of Ethnicity Protocols</u> No specific milestone set for this period.	On target
<u>Needs Assessment and Coordination (NSAC) Data Collection</u> No specific milestone set for this period.	Scoping of project underway

2.3 Stakeholder Communications

One of the key tasks assigned to HISAC under its Terms of Reference is “establishing strategies for communications and stakeholder management”.

HISAC moved promptly to address this responsibility. At its second meeting in September 2005, HISAC approved the *HIS-NZ Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Strategy*.

Key activities and achievements undertaken in support of this strategy for the period to 31 December 2005 included:

- the development and approval of branding for HISAC communications
- the development of an initial list of HISAC stakeholders and their contact details
- the development of the HISAC web-site with assistance from the Ministry of Health
- the preparation and dissemination of HISAC's first electronic newsletter in December 2005
- presentations at meetings and regular forums within the health sector which focus on health information
- awareness-raising discussions about HIS-NZ and HISAC with directorates within the Ministry of Health
- membership of other committees such as the National Systems Review Executive and the Health Practitioner Index Steering Group
- delivering the opening address at the Health Information New Zealand Primary Care Conference.

2.4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Terms of Reference identify a key performance measure for HISAC as examples of planned information technology expenditure being re-prioritised by health and disability organisations to align with HIS-NZ. The first examples are likely to be identified by January 2007 when Ministers make the final decisions on recommendations from the National Capital Committee about information system capital funding. HISAC is still to identify, and develop if perceived as useful, systems for identifying re-prioritisation of expenditure below National Capital Committee caps. Information provided to the Ministry of Health through the District Annual Plans of the District Health Boards is another potential source of information about re-prioritisation of expenditure towards the development of information systems.

A report on sector progress towards the implementation of the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand 2005 is on page 10.

SECTOR PROGRESS TOWARDS HIS-NZ IMPLEMENTATION

HISAC is aware that many initiatives already underway within the sector will contribute to HIS-NZ. Some of these started in response to WAVE, the health sector information strategy which preceded HIS-NZ. Others have been implemented to support recent health strategies and health information strategies.

Some sector organisations have provided information to HISAC about HIS-NZ related projects (see below). A more detailed list is expected as a result of a project currently underway in the Ministry of Health and from District Health Board reporting requirements to the Ministry of Health. HISAC's awareness of projects underway in other organisations will expand through the Action Zone Initiation Process. Knowledge

of all current and planned projects will facilitate the development of an overall Implementation Plan and the development of systematic processes for tracking and reporting progress with all significant sector initiatives related to HIS-NZ.

Another source of potential benchmarks against which future sector progress can be monitored will come with the release, probably in March 2006, of the Auditor General's report: "Ministry of Health: Progress with priorities for health information management and technology set by the WAVE report" (the OAG report). The draft report contains valuable information about the state of implementation in mid 2005 of several sector initiatives.

The following sections provide some examples of existing implementation initiatives which have been brought formally to HISAC's attention.

Sector proposals and projects advised to HISAC

Next Generation Health Network

The Ministry of Health is scoping the possibility of undertaking a *Next Generation Health Network* project to provide a comprehensive current state and problem diagnosis of Health Networking in New Zealand. This project, if it proceeds, will inform the development of the detailed system architecture, service specifications and governance arrangements. This initiative has strong links to Action Zone 1 and is of special relevance to the Infrastructure Sub-committee.

Primary Health Information Systems

The Ministry of Health is working with the sector to develop a business case for funding the development of information systems to support the implementation of the Primary Care Strategy. This initiative has strong links to Action Zone 7 Chronic Case and Disease Management, and Action Zone 10 National Primary Care Collection.

National Systems Review

The Ministry of Health initiated this review to ensure that the 50 or so national systems over which it exercises stewardship will continue to be capable of meeting sector needs for the next 5-6 years. This initiative has strong links to several action zones including Action Zones 9 National Outpatient Collection and Action Zone 10 National Primary Care Collection. Paul Cressey represents HISAC on the Review.

HISAC Action Zone Initiation Process

Appendix 1



