



HealthLink seeks to join Interconnection Agreement

Media Release

The Health Information Action Strategy Committee (HISAC) has received a letter from HealthLink Ltd requesting to join the New Zealand Health Network interconnection agreement.

Telecom/Gen-I and TelstraClear signed an agreement to interconnect their secure health networks earlier this year. Datacom and the Ministry of Health were the other signatories to the agreement. HealthLink had been actively engaged in the development of the agreement, but chose not to sign citing a number of operational issues they claimed precluded their participation.

Graeme Osborne, Chair of the HISAC Infrastructure Sub-Committee said “We made it clear to HealthLink that they were welcome to join the interconnection agreement at any time and sought to address their concerns through processes already in place.”

In 2007 HISAC brought together all accredited network providers, including HealthLink, to establish a forum through which operational issues could be raised and dealt with by industry agreement. The group recently reconfirmed standards currently in use within the network and agreed on guidelines clarifying the operational application of a number of items.

“Although HealthLink’s proposed changes were not adopted on this occasion, it shows that issues can be raised and dealt with in a constructive manner. We now have industry clarification and agreement around aspects of Health Network operation. We are pleased that we have been able to facilitate this work and that all accredited network providers have reached consensus on a number of matters”, said Graeme Osborne.

HealthLink have subsequently indicated that they now wish to join the Interconnection Agreement.

Mr Osborne said, “The interconnection agreement is a major step forward for the New Zealand Health Network and ensures that information exchange between health care providers can occur in a secure and trusted environment. HISAC has been pleased to work with the industry in arriving at this solution.”

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