

HealthConnect
Interim Research Report

VOLUME **3** **Background documents**

HEALTHCONNECT: A HEALTH INFORMATION
NETWORK FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS



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FOREWORD

The *HealthConnect* Interim Research Report is an important landmark in the area of electronic health record systems development. Bringing together the findings of the first 20 months of the *HealthConnect* Project being undertaken jointly by the Commonwealth, states and territories, this report represents a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge in this area, both nationally and internationally.

As a two-year research and development project, the *HealthConnect* Project has been framed by a set of seven high level research questions aimed at testing the value, technical feasibility, preferred implementation model, costs and sustainability of *HealthConnect* as a national approach to electronic health records. The research questions have also sought to answer what privacy and governance arrangements would be needed to oversee an undertaking on the scale of *HealthConnect*, and what the role of the private sector might be in its delivery and operations.

Another major area of work undertaken under the *HealthConnect* Project has involved the development of the key building blocks, needed not only for *HealthConnect*, but for the broader e-health agenda — such as consent, privacy, and technical and information standards.

This volume is the third of the three-volume *HealthConnect Interim Research Report*, produced by the joint Commonwealth, state and territory *HealthConnect* Program Office located in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. It contains a wealth of background research, drawing on both Australian and international experiences with electronic health record systems as follows:

- Part 1 *International approaches to the electronic health record* is a report commissioned by the Program Office to examine the approaches used in a number of other countries and compare these to the approach adopted under the *HealthConnect* Project.
- Part 2 *Electronic health information systems case studies* contains four commissioned case studies of electronic health information systems, comparing and contrasting their approaches with what is proposed for *HealthConnect*: namely, two Australian projects (the Oacis clinical information system in South Australia and the Brisbane Waters Smart Patient Data Implementation project in New South Wales) and two overseas projects (the Walsall Electronic Record Development Implementation Project in the United Kingdom and the Toronto electronic Child Health Network in Canada).
- Parts 3 and 4 contain the evaluation reports for the Tasmanian and Northern Territory *HealthConnect* trials respectively, three months into these trials.
- Part 5 *Defining the HealthConnect research questions* is a paper concerned with the research associated with the design and testing of *HealthConnect* itself, defining the set of high-level research questions that frame the *HealthConnect* Project in greater detail.
- Part 6 *HealthConnect Business Architecture* is a document that describes what *HealthConnect* needs to be able to do to deliver on its objectives.

As stand-alone documents, each of the reports contained within this volume will no doubt be of considerable interest to stakeholders. Additionally, the material in this volume has provided valuable

background material both for volume 1 of the *HealthConnect Interim Research Report*, and for the research reports of the seven high level research questions contained in volume 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the content of this volume of the report with such willingness and enthusiasm, particularly those involved in the Tasmanian and Northern Territory *HealthConnect* trials and the case studies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fitzgerald', written in a cursive style.

Paul Fitzgerald
Manager
HealthConnect Program Office

July 2003