



# Learning Health System Strategic Advisory Committee

## Chair's Report – 13 April 2026

The Learning Health Strategic Advisory Committee (“the committee”) met virtually for their fourth meeting on 13 April 2026.

The meeting focused on data quality and suitability, particularly how My Health Record data compares with other datasets, and what is likely to change as national data standards (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)) are introduced over time.

A key focus of the committee's early work has been establishing strong processes for the program into the future. This includes the Guide and Roadmap documents, with chapters presented regularly, reviewed, and refined in response to member feedback. The committee continues to prioritise maintaining public trust, supporting open communication, and advising on how data can be made available for research and public health purposes when appropriate.

### Data quality and suitability

Following opening remarks and standard meeting proceedings, the committee heard a presentation from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on the value of My Health Record data. The presentation provided a high-level overview of how My Health Record data fits within Australia's broader health data landscape, and where it may add the most value for research and public health.

Members welcomed the opportunity to better understand the types of data already available in the My Health Record and the potential to expand the availability and utility of data, provided governance arrangements are designed and implemented effectively.

Discussion also considered the researcher perspective, including the reality that funding constraints can be a significant barrier to researchers accessing data in a timely way. Members noted this will be an important consideration when designing governance processes which aim to support appropriate access.

The committee also heard from the Australian eHealth Research Centre (AeHRC) at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The presentation outlined how consistent data and FHIR (national data standards) will inform the future data in My Health Record and in turn this can lead to innovation and transformation of information flows for consumers health data. The team is working to ensure that once shared, information can be available across multiple settings to enable consumers to retell their health story more easily. The presentation offered useful insight into My Health Record modernisation, including the value of more accessible data (moving away from PDFs), common data models, and how these approaches could support research use cases.

### Roadmap and Guide

The committee then turned to the meeting's nominated focus chapters for the Guide:

- Chapter 1: Governance roles and responsibilities
- Chapter 7: Preparing and making data available – and data quality

Members observed that the Guide would benefit from a simpler, clearer structure as it currently contains significant operational detail. A proposal was raised to reshape the Guide around a set of overarching themes, similar but not limited to those currently listed as the guides chapters. Under each theme, the Guide would articulate a set of value-driven guiding principles designed to influence behaviour in ways that give effect to the committee's agreed values. The intent is to provide a more accessible and straightforward view of the Guide while retaining substance and practical relevance.

## Looking forward

The digital health landscape is advancing rapidly. It will be key for the committee to understand how its work relates to other initiatives, particularly the department's work with FHIR. Future meetings will explore these connections while continuing to develop recommendations to support future consultation and engagement.

The committee will meet again virtually on 15 June 2026.