

MEDIA STATEMENT

Embargoed until 6am Tuesday 30 April 2019

The Australasian College of Health Informatics and the Health Informatics Society of Australia have taken a proposal to their members to combine their organisations into a new peak professional body for health informatics and digital health.

A two-month consultation period opens today with members, as well as the wider digital health community, invited to consider the potential benefits for members and the Australian health sector, patients and consumers.

If the proposal is passed when the vote is put to members at special general meetings later this year, a new peak body for digital health and health informatics will be launched in early 2020.

Members of both organisations have been asked for feedback by 25 June 2019.

ACHI President Angela Ryan said: "Our organisations have been close allies and partners for many years, and we have become increasingly aligned on strategy especially around workforce capacity building in the digital era.

"There is exciting potential for a new organisation to provide a seamless pathway for professional development, training and certification in digital health – which will increasingly build skills and empower Australia's health workforce," she said.

HISA Chair David Hansen said: "Digital health is now integral to how healthcare is delivered in Australia – and a key part of everyone's job in healthcare."

"Now is the time to create a new organisation that supports the health informatics and digital health community – the clinicians, nurses, researchers, executives and the health informaticians and technicians who increasingly make up our community," he said.

He urged members to take part in the consultation process to be influential in Australia's digital health future.

To download the Consultation documentation and provide feedback go to:

www.hisa.org.au/neworganisation or www.achi.org.au/neworganisation

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