IHE Australia National Deployment Committee
Activity Report – 2024

Nation / Region Name: **IHE Australia**
Date Activity Report Issued: **June 1 2024**

Summary and what's new:

IHE Australia structure and operations continued since the last report in 2022, with an opportunity opening to more formally engage with and be publicly supported by our national health IT program – The Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA).
ADHA joined IHE in 2021 and in 2024 upgraded their membership to Benefactor status. This has opened several channels for communication and opportunities for collaboration.

(1) Discussions are underway with ADHA to explore potential for mutual support and collaboration. ADHA has proposed creating a Memorandum of Association with IHE Australia. A draft MOU created by IHE provides a high-level overview of the types of mutual activities proposed already by ADHA and IHE Australia's vision for an expanded scope. Our approach to these negotiations is based on trying to gain a clear understanding of the ADHA's technical or system delivery issues, the factors leading to this welcome overture and what outcomes they are trying to achieve. We are informed by the operations and outcomes of a similar MOU process between ADHA and HL7 Australia, and knowledge of similar successful collaborations in Europe, USA and Canada with their national programs.
(2) In Q3 2022, a series of meetings were held with ADHA regarding conformance testing and potential use of Gazelle for conformance and projectathon testing. We introduced the IHE Catalyst team to ADHA to further explore the ADHA's needs as their internal conformance testing of vendor capability to connect to national infrastructure such as identity services, MyHealth Record and e-scripts had been challenging and costly to deliver. ADHA made internal decisions not to pursue this, without any specific reason being offered and we could only infer that for the time being ADHA had internally conflicting viewpoints about IHE and decided to continue with their own efforts.
(3) In December 2022 IHE Australia conducted an internal 2-day workshop for ADHA staff on IHE methods and products, along with input from other locally SDO JIC members (HL7 Australia, Standards Australia (ISO TC 215). Due to resources required, this was a paid engagement (large delivered by volunteers) providing much needed income to support core operations.
(4) In Q3 and Q4 of 2023 IHE Australia actively participated in and ADHA architecture led public consultation on the scope and workflows required for a national e-referral system focusing on diagnostic imaging (Modernisation of Diagnostic Imaging – MODI). Informing our contribution, we consulted internationally with IHE Italy, Charles Parisot and IHE Canada to discuss the status of XDW profiles as a potential framework for a technical solution that could leverage Australia's existing XDS based national health information exchange. With the support of Chris Lindop, we developed a state flow diagram based on XDW that mirrored the perceived local requirements for tracking the status of a referral. Charles Parisot advised that France had implemented a document exchange model for referrals using their national HIE and have not developed capability (via XDW) to track referrals centrally due to perceived lack of

usefulness and value. At a certain point in the process of design the work was taken back within ADHA. The current status of this work is not clear. . Work has continued on components of the project supporting standardized SNOMED codes for DI procedures and the development of an Australian version of the FHIR core, including FHIR representations of investigation requests.

(5) IHE Australia is represented on the ADHA Council for Connected Healthcare committee (Professor Trish Williams) and the ADHA Standards Advisory Group (Dr. Vince McCauley)

In 2023 IHE Australia partnered with HL7 Australia, GS1, Standards Australia and CSIRO to deliver a national standards workshop at MEDINFO in Sydney. Derek Ritz provided invaluable support with a video describing IHE's approach to the workshop theme of a fictitious African monkeypox outbreak.

As in previous years active participation in the IHE Global Deployment Committee has been supportive and beneficial to us and provided insights into what does work, often in environments quite different to ours. It is nonetheless inspiring and a forum for seeking collegiate input. We need to acknowledge the contribution of the GDC leadership including Mike Nusbaum, Derek Ritz and Jürgen Brandstätter who provide a key link with IHE central activities and are willing sources of expertise and experience. We have found that the rotating time-zone system and recording of meeting has worked well to support global participation.

We acknowledge the long-term contribution of Chris Lindop to IHE Australia and his service as a board member, technical support to our prior connectathons and showcases, participation in educational events and consultancies. Chris reports that he has stepped back from active engagement in IHE technical committees, following his retirement from industry employment. We will need to look to how to continue the key role he played as IHE international liaison.

IHE Australia, through our chair Vince McCauley, follows the discussions at the IHE international board, however we struggle with the time zone issues as the board meetings are always in the early morning hours.

Mission of the National / Regional IHE initiative

The mission for IHE Australia is aligned with IHE International's mission and strategic plan

(For readers not overly familiar with IHE, these short videos may introduce IHE and IHE's methods and IHE's strategic plan.)

IHE Australia has local responsibility for the promotion of the IHE approach, representing Australian requirements to the IHE Domains creating and localizing Integration Specifications ("Profiles"), and running of local conformance testing events ("Connectathons") according to the IHE International guidelines, ISO 28380 TR and Australian best practice.

IHE Australia supports the Australian e-Health standards implementer community:

- Advocating for the systematic use of health information and communication technology products that deploy existing IHE profiles.
- Supporting a user led and industry driven IHE process to establish an agreed suite of fit for purpose Integration Specifications ("Profiles") for Australia and seeing this list incorporated into standards catalogues.
- Evaluating the existing IHE International Profiles against the requirements of the Australian e-Health standards implementation community
- Promoting the ability to localise IHE International profiles for Australian use.
- Preparing and submitting Part IV national extensions to existing IHE Profiles and proposals for new Profiles, as needed, to address agreed Australian requirements.
- Support the testing of IHE Profiles in Australian IHE Connectathons
- Support the testing and implementation of standards based local Australian profiles in Projectathons to support national e health infrastructure, public and private health system implementations.
- Promoting IHE as an effective process, even where IHE profiles are not implemented, to achieve the interoperability and the widespread adoption of deployed systems in health care
- Developing skills and knowledge of the IHE integration testing ("Connectathon") methodology and tools
- Holding IHE Connectathons, Interoperability Showcases and other events to support the Australian e Health Standards Implementation Community.
- IHE Australia supports IHE International through participation in the IHE Global Deployment Committee and wider the standards development community including ISO TC215 as part of the IHE International delegation and at HL7 International Working Group meetings.

Sponsors of the National / Regional IHE Initiative

The key active organizational sponsors of IHE Australia activity are:

1. **Australian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH)**

(created from the merger of Health Informatics Society Australia (HISA) and the Australian College of Health Informatics)

AIDH is the major organisation representing a broad base of health industry players with an interest in health informatics. It runs the largest annual health informatics conference and exhibition. AIDH is the Australian delegate to IMIA.

IHE Australia has for many years worked with AIDH to sponsor and promote the annual flagship health informatics conference (HIC) and run a co-badged education event annually in association with the conference to promote IHE and health interoperability standards. An AIDH representative does not attend IHE Australia Board meetings however we maintain regular communication with the CEO and key staff members.

2. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)

RANZCR is the professional academic body representing radiologists. Membership of the RANZCR is a requirement to be practice as an imaging specialist.

IHE Australia works with the RANZCR management and eHealth committee to promote use of IHE profiles, in particular supporting RANZCR advocate for adoption of XDS-I for image exchange in our national HIE, the Australian MyHealthRecord. The RANZCR is represented on the IHE Australia board by Ms Shelly Hansen.

2. Medical Software Industry Association (Australia) (MSIA)

MSIA is a membership-based IT industry body representing software vendors and others working in the medical software industry.

The MSIA currently provides no active sponsorship activities, other than promoting IHE Australia events to their membership. IHE Australia has a positive ongoing relationship and remains in regular communication with the Chair of the MSIA on issues of mutual interest.

3. Health Level 7 Australia

HL7 Australia is the Australian local committee of HL7 international. HL7Australia has in the past worked with Standards Australia (IT14 committee) to localise HL7 standards and has contributed significantly to international standards development. IHE Australia has previously partnered with HL7 Australia to create ‘IHE type” profiles based on Australian standards and has run a connectathon to test these profiles.

HL7 Australia has been restructuring itself in recent years and has not been actively involved with IHE Australia, other than through collaboration on the annual HIC standards workshop. HL7 Australia’s major focus has been on supporting the development of HL7 FHIR internationally and localization in the Australian context. HL7 is jointly undertaking a project funded by the ADHA to create an Australian FHIR core – the SPARK project

IHE Australia Chair (Vince McCauley) and Board member (Trish Williams) are co-Chairs at HL7 International Orchestration, Services and Architecture (formerly SOA) and Security Working Groups

IHE International Board Representatives

Name: Dr. Vincent McCauley
Phone: +61 408204765
Email: vincem@mccauleysoftware.com

IHE GDC Representative
Name: Dr Peter MacIsaac
Phone: +61 411403462
Email: admin@ihe.net.au - peter@macisaacinformatics.org

There is no formal active regional IHE initiative with regional liaison via the Global Deployment Committee

Date Deployment Committee was first recognized by IHE International Board:

2007

Organization of IHE Australia:

IHE Australia welcomes participation of persons or organisations active in Australia including:

- IHE Australia sponsor organisations which provides tangible support and resources to further IHE Australia's mission.
- IHE international members,
- Implementors of IHE profiles,
- Participants in IHE Australia activities,
- Those having an interest and commitment to IHE goals, products and processes which can include health professionals, professional organisations, consumers, government bodies, software vendors and health IT consultants.

As such IHE Australia has adopted a "community of interest" model, rather than a formal association model. There is currently no formal local membership or joining process or opportunity to collect local membership fees.

Sponsor members can be invited to provide a member of the IHE Australia Board, otherwise the board is made up of willing volunteers a from a cross section of the health and IT industries

Incorporated entity:

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise Australia Pty Ltd.

ACN 148 129 024

Directors and shareholders: Vince McCauley, Peter MacIsaac

IHE Australia is an unincorporated association, with IHE Australia Pty Ltd, operating as "not for profit" incorporated entity providing a framework for events and activity management.

IHE Australia Pty Ltd is no longer registered for Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Australian income tax as a recognized self-declared with "Not for Profit" status under Australian taxation legislations. This has greatly simplified corporate reporting obligations.

The IHE Australia committee/leadership group over 2022-2024

Chair: Dr. Vince McCauley - CEO McCauley Software
Professor of Digital Health, Flinders University
(Director IHE Australia Pty Ltd)

Members: Prof. Trish Williams - CISCO Chair and Professor of Digital Health Systems, Flinders University
Michael Czapski – Interoperabily Engineer/Consultant
Manoj Verma – BD (formerly Carefusion)
Chris Lindop, IHE International/Radiology TC Liaison.
Jo Vartuli, Medical device interoperability consultant
Shelley Hanson – Director Standards Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists

Secretary: Dr. Peter MacIsaac, Medical practitioner, Health informatician and Director IHE Australia Pty Ltd

The IHE Australia committee meets fortnightly by zoom to keep up to date with IHE and local Australian developments and opportunities for IHE to contribute.

Website and domain: www.ihe.net

The website (www.ihe.net.au) diverts to the IHE international website. In 2021 our local website was decommissioned due to lack of resources for maintenance. A project is underway to re-establish an effective web presence.

eMail address: admin.australia@ihe.net.au

Wiki: https://wiki.ihe.net/index.php/Australia

IHE Australia Lists: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ihe_aus_board

.

Support and Interest by Stakeholder Groups

Active work continues around development of an MOU, joint work program and opportunities for mutual support with the Australian Digital Health Agency.

IHE International relationship

- IHE Australia is a financial member of IHE International for 2022/23
- Participation in IHE Global Deployment Committee
- Attendance at IHE board meetings remains a challenge due to time zones
- Joint presentation with AIDH to the GDC on the current state of standards in Australia
- Workshop to discuss sustainability model for IHE Australia and assist with management of IHE membership fees
- IHE Australia now financially up to date, but subscription model not sustainable without income source

Other activities in 2022/24:

Fee paying workshops

Connectathons - nil
Showcases – nil
Courses and training – 1

Organisational interaction:

Healthcare Professional Associations *(0 organization)*

Government Agencies and Public-Private Partnerships *(1 organization)*

Australian Digital Health Agency

Standards Organizations *(2 organizations)*

- Health Level 7, Inc. (HL7)
- Standards Australia

Health Information Exchanges *(1 organization)*

MyHealth Record

Healthcare Provider Organizations *(0 organizations)*

Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)

Healthcare Education and Research Organizations *(1 organizations)*

CSIRO

Trade Associations *(3 organizations)*

- Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA)
- The Medical Software Industry Association
- Australian Institute of Digital Health

Healthcare IT and Consulting Companies operating in IHE Australia region

- IHE secretariat reviews from time to time the IHE vendor membership list to determine which vendors are active in our region and which profile areas/ domains they operate within.k This review is overdue
- Sequoia – we maintain regular contact with Didi Davis and promote the achievements of Sequoia and their IHE use.

IHE Sponsor liaison

RANZCR

- regular participation of their representative in IHE Australia leadership group
- contribution to RANZCR efforts in development of DI order/procedure terminology
- input into ADHA MODI project

HL7

- Liaison through joint memberships
- Plan for joint meeting in Q3 2022

Australian Institute of Digital Health

- liaison through joint memberships
- Input to leadership

Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA)

- liaison through joint memberships

eHealth Standards environment

The general environment for implementation of standards in health IT remains largely unchanged.

The ADHA has released a national interoperability plan and set up an oversight committee – the Council for Connected Care

A joint CSIRO/HL7 project to create an Australian FHIR core is underway – the SPARKED project. IHE Australia attends FHIR education events and promoting the concepts of profile development, Connectathon and conformance testing as FHIR matures.

The ADHA continues to look internationally for models by associating with the Global Digital Health Partnership – a closed group consisting of "national programs" and the WHO. https://www.gdhp.org/.

IHE Australia is liaising with the Gemini Project in relation to the International patient summary via Reuben Daniels.

IHE Australia supported the adoption by HL7 International of the FHIR pathology results specification jointly developed by IHE PALMS and HL7 Europe

Activities and Achievements in the Preceding 24 Months

- Testing events - Nil
- Demonstrations - Nil
- Education – Internal workshop for ADHA
- Engagement with local health IT projects- eReferral for Diagnostic Imaging (MODI) This provides a potential opportunity to promote XDS and XBeRW profile. IHE Aus has prepared a workflow and state analysis for DI referrals in Australia and IHE has engaged with requirements gathering workshops. From our perspective it is regrettable that the ADHA appears to be designing the infrastructure and standards as a "green fields" project, rather than starting with what we can leverage from existing infrastructure and standards based profiles.

- Standards
    - Representation of at ISO TC215 (Vince McCauley
    - Representation an HL7 International WGMs (Vince McCauley)
    - Representation at ISO TC 215 (Prof Trish Willams)
    - Input to national standards governance plan - ADHA

- Deployment Projects based on IHE Profiles

  IHE profiles are most likely embedded in many delivered products but not easily identified. Radiology systems using IHE scheduled workflow are one example. The

hallmark of a successful standards based profile deployment is that it is invisible due to being universally adopted.

MyHR (formerly PCEHR)
This project is Australia's national government led and funded effort to enable a shared healthcare record. The core infrastructure vendors are Accenture and Oracle with a single national "affinity domain" being established with a single national repository and links to other government health systems. The key element of the model is "patient control" albeit with a move from a fully "opt in" to an "opt out" model for patient consent for information inclusion at the system and individual document level. MyHR uses national webservices such as patient and provider identity services and a national certificate service. Although the core infrastructure uses the IHE XDSb profile and core actors, a number of components, primarily access and security have been developed in a bespoke fashion with all access being via a bespoke gateway. IHE Australia has frequently advocated for deployment of unused capability within the product suite licenced for MyHR such as XDS-I for access to prior images.

- **IHE Profile Development** – nil

Notable Challenges and Opportunities

These remain essentially unchanged since our last report however the opportunity has opened up to work with our national program (ADHA)

Re-launch of our own web-presence and social media platforms – currently IHE Australia site redirects to the IHE.net

IHE Australia will review it role and activities in consultation with sponsors and active members

Re-establishing and reinvigorating relationships with the membership base, vendors and non-federal public health systems and other Joint Initiative Council actors in the eHealth standards community.

Engagement with HL7 Australia to collaborate effectively to support HL7 FHIR deployment.

Engagement of a new generation of leadership and participants to take forward health IT standards development and advocacy work.

Development of a membership engagement model that generates sponsorship and income to support our core activities

Further information:
Dr Peter MacIsaac +61411403462 peter@macisaacinformatics.org admin@ihe.net.au