

---

**Australian College Health Informatics INC**  
(ABN: 33 764 047 507)  
**Registered Postal Address: C/o HISA 413**  
**Lygon Street, Brunswick East 3057 Victoria**  
**Australia**



[www.achi.org.au](http://www.achi.org.au)

**Submission from the Australian College of Health Informatics (ACHI) to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission.**

**[Prepared by the Fellows and Members of the ACHI-May 2008]**

The Australian College of Health Informatics seeks to advise the NHHRC about what we believe are gaps in Australia that will make it difficult to implement and sustain an eHealth strategy and work plan to support the principles enunciated by the NHHRC and to assist in meeting the challenges listed in the “Beyond the Blame Game” report.

- The gaps in health informatics knowledge and competencies in the current workforce must be addressed by educational institutions and health services collaboratively with support from both public and private sectors.
- The many dangerous gaps in the safety and accuracy of information sharing, electronic health records and clinical decision support, which must be addressed. Failure to do so will lead to poor health outcomes, increased adverse events and increased costs to the health system.
- The gaps in patient knowledge and involvement in their own health care.

We ask that the NHHRC:

- encourage and support the public and private sector to address the large gaps in the capacity of the current workforce to understand and implement any eHealth program efficiently and effectively;
- develops a research, development and implementation strategy to enhance the uptake of clinical decision support tools IN PARALLEL with the existing national Electronic Health Record records strategy. No complete Electronic Health Record System exists at the current time and attempts to make it complete ‘from the beginning’ is guaranteed to fail based on current experience and knowledge in Australia and internationally.
- support the Australian College of Health Informatics as the professional college of experts to develop and maintain a training and accreditation strategy and process to ensure that benchmarks for eHealth competencies are in place and maintained in the health workforce.

We are available to discuss these statements with the NHHRC.

***Submitted on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, by the President of the Australian College of Health Informatics on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on behalf of its Fellows and Members.***