

# NEHTA 101

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# Australian Health Context

- n Mix of public & private service provision
- n Federally funded, state/territory delivered public health
- n Previous EHR adventures, e.g. HealthConnect
- n Appetite for change
- n Context of international standards & vendor products
- n Vibrant local e-Health expertise and industry.



# NEHTA Background

- n NEHTA has responsibility for **developing** national health IM&ICT standards and specifications.
- n Formed in July 2005 as a **not-for-profit** company with a three year tenure
- n **Jointly funded** by Australian state, territorial & federal governments
- n Board of NEHTA Limited is comprised of **chief executives** from health departments within these jurisdictions.
- n Has recently attracted **COAG funding** for three key work initiatives - Terminology, Provider Identifiers, Patient Identifiers.

## Why a national approach to e-health?

- n Recognition that e-health was moving too slowly:
  - .. Investments in health IT **uncoordinated** across the public hospital system operated by the states
  - .. A high penetration of computers in general practice but **little desktop interoperability**
  - .. Where messages are exchanged between clinical providers **there are no common formats, terminologies or directories**
  - .. **Multiple identifiers** for patients & providers are in use across the primary and secondary sectors.

# Accelerating healthcare reform nationally

- n Supporting a national approach by forming a single entity to:
  - .. Develop the standards, specifications, terminologies & formats to enable interoperability
  - .. Fund the 'missing pieces' of infrastructure in healthcare identifiers & clinical terminology
  - .. Develop the national policies required to protect privacy and patient consent
  - .. Establish a basis for modelling benefits from e-health to assist in assigning investment priorities.

