



Department of Health

Digital Health Consultation – RANZCOG Response

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Department of Health regarding the Digital Health Consultation ([Your health, Your say](#)). The following submission provides input on the five requested areas.

1. How would healthcare workers like to use data and technology to support them to make better treatment decisions?

For e-healthcare technology to be useful, it must:

- be very easy to use, intuitive, and not add a layer of complexity or extra work to the busy clinician's already frantic workload, and;
- be easy to access, contemporaneous, accurate, and comprehensive without being overwhelming
- Clinicians need to trust it, meaning they know it adds value to what they are doing already. If data capture becomes a burden that duplicates existing systems, it will be difficult to maintain interest.

Data should ideally provide standardised information regarding a patient's medical history, management and treatment. Standardised terminology and comprehensive information sharing are important for promoting better outcomes for patients.

2. What gets in the way of health professionals being able to connect, communicate and coordinate with the right people?

Having to double up on their notes or correspondence. The system needs to be a seamless extension of what they are already doing. Once data has to be entered twice, or in a different way, or in a way that requires extra effort, clinicians will not engage or – worse – they will simply add pointless or truncated information or data just to 'tick the box' which will be detrimental to the data set.

3. What do health professionals need to be able to effectively connect, communicate and coordinate with the right people?

A system that automatically takes its data from their existing record systems, accurately and in a timely manner. Double entry is dangerous and encourages pointless box-ticking data entry.

4. What should be the immediate priority initiative for the My Health Record to ensure it delivers real value for healthcare professionals?

To make sure it does not add, in any way to the current administrative load for clinicians.

5. How could data and technology be better used to improve health and wellbeing?

By synthesising data from different clinicians and tests, and picking disease patterns that might not be obvious when one clinician is looking in isolation. Standardised terminology and comprehensive information sharing are important for promoting better outcomes for patients.