



Digital health leaders meet in United States to forge global plans

Digital health leaders from 16 countries, Hong Kong SAR and the World Health Organization (WHO) are participating in the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP), which has held its second Summit hosted in Washington DC on April 24-25. Participants discussed approaches to global collaboration in a range of topics related to the delivery of digital health services and associated policy priorities.



Australian Digital Health Agency CEO Tim Kelsey and Chief Medical Adviser Meredith Makeha with participants at the second Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP) Summit 2018 in Washington DC

The GDHP is a collaborative of governments, territories, government agencies and the World Health Organisation to support effective implementation of digital health services. It was initiated in February 2018 in Canberra, Australia.

Australia, Argentina, Austria, Republic of Belarus, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, Republic of Indonesia, India, Italy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Ukraine, and the World Health Organization (WHO) are participating in the GDHP.

The GDHP is a platform for international healthcare leaders to share best practice in the use of data and technology to advance health and care, said Tim Kelsey, CEO of the Australian Digital Health Agency, which hosts the GDHP secretariat.

“Digital technologies can improve the safety, quality, and effectiveness of healthcare, support earlier diagnosis of disease and the development of new medicines and treatments,” said Mr Kelsey. “They empower patients, citizens and the care professionals who serve them.”

The United States hosted the meeting in Washington. “The Global Digital Health Partnership is a unique opportunity to both collaborate with other nations by sharing best practices in digital health and to adopt innovative strategies that have worked well abroad,” US Department of Health and Human Services Chief Technology Officer Bruce D. Greenstein said.



“The United States is excited to participate in the GDHP. Every nation brings a unique perspective on health IT to the partnership and I’m looking forward to learning from them and bringing back valuable lessons learned to our work here in the US,” said Dr Don Rucker, National Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Dr Rucker chairs the GDHP work stream on Interoperability, one of five programs that are the focus of the international collaboration.

Summit participants have agreed five topics for collaboration that focus on interoperability, cybersecurity, clinician and consumer engagement, evaluation of the impact of digital health and related policy priorities, including privacy and consent.

“GDHP offers participating countries an opportunity to share their knowledge and learn from international evidence in a range of key areas relevant to digital health policy and service delivery. This can guide the way we develop our local initiatives to improve health and care,” said Clinical Professor Meredith Makeham, Chief Medical Adviser at the Australian Digital Health Agency who leads the GDHP secretariat.

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Media contact

David Cooper, Senior Media Manager

Mobile: +61 428 772 421 Email: media@digitalhealth.gov.au

About the Global Digital Health Partnership

The next formal summit meeting of the GDHP will take place in the UK in September 2018.

For further information on the Global Digital Health Partnership, please visit www.gdhp.org.