

8 October 2020

Clin A/Prof Sanjay Jeganathan
Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists

By email: fcr@ranzcr.edu.au

Digital Health White Paper

Dear Professor Jeganathan

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above consultation. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with more than 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders.

We welcome the development of the Digital Health White Paper by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR). We note, and support, the RANZCR's vision to optimise available technology in the patient journey from clinical radiology referral, through test performance and interpretation, to receipt of the results by the referrer and the patient. There is an obvious need for standardised terminologies and interoperability between systems, particularly semantic interoperability, so that systems can talk to each other and transfer information such that it means the same everywhere within the greater health system.

We agree with the 5 strategic projects that have been identified by the College and believe they are sensible and achievable, with commitment. While the White Paper is focussed on Clinical Radiology, digital health solutions are used across disciplines including General Practice. The vision statements could just as easily be applied to Digital Health in its entirety, not just Clinical Radiology.

We note that the White Paper is currently Australian-centric with several examples of digital health strategies and initiatives in Australia but none from the New Zealand context. Given the trans-Tasman membership and jurisdiction of the College, we suggest that the White Paper would benefit from the inclusion of some specific content relating to digital health in New Zealand.

We hope our feedback is helpful and look forward to the finalised White Paper.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair