



Media Release

29 March 2013

New Recognition of Health Informatics Skills in Healthcare Workforce

Certified Health Informatician Australasia (CHIA)

The Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA), in collaboration with the Australasian College of Health Informatics (ACHI) and the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) will launch the Certified Health Informatician Australasia certification program in July 2013.

The program will address the lack of formal recognition for health informatics skills in the Australian health workforce.

Engaging clinicians and health informaticians early in the business case, design, implementation and evaluation of e-health initiatives has proven positive outcomes, yet too often we continue to see these initiatives treated as 'IT projects' that don't have health informatician involvement. That is a mistake, according to HISA CEO Dr Louise Schaper.

"As Australia's peak body for health informatics and e-health, I hear from institutions and individuals alike complaining either of a lack of skilled workers or a lack of job opportunities."

"What is desperately needed to help address this issue is training and recognition of health informatics knowledge and skills for those already part of the health workforce."

Participation in the program will be via directed self-learning, successful completion of the program will require the applicant to pass an exam.

Candidates must have an undergraduate degree plus experience in health informatics and associated health fields such as administration/management, clinical information systems, e-health or information systems. Candidates will be professional health informaticians and include but not limited to clinicians, allied health professionals, health information managers, nurses and ICT professionals.

The certification program has been developed by a committee composed of representatives from HISA, HIMAA and ACHI and includes leaders in health informatics academia and the health and IT sector.

The core competencies for health informatics that are tested in the exam have been developed with reference to similar programs by the American Medical Informatics Association, the International Medical Informatics Association and COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association, and builds on the previous work done by the Australian Health Informatics Education Council.

The learning streams for the Australian program are ICT, health sciences, information sciences, management sciences, human and social context, and core principals and methods.

The official program launch will take place on 16 July 2013 at Health Informatics Conference in Adelaide, in conjunction with a workshop and education session. The first exams will take place in October 2013.