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# Applied Data Linkage: from dirty data to clean complete patient records in emergency health care

Dr Julia Crilly, John O'Dwyer, Marilla O'Dwyer, Dr James Lind, Kerri Melki, Dr Julia Peters, Assoc Prof Vivienne Tippet, Nerolie Bost, Prof Marianne Wallis, Dr Gerben Keijzers

# Overview

## 1. Project Team

2. The Study

3. How HDI works (Efficiency)

4. Manual versus HDI\* linking (Effectiveness)

5. So what? (Relevancy to health care)

\*Health Data Integration....



# Robina ED Impact (REDI) Project team

## **Principal Investigators –**

**Dr James Lind** (Director of Emergency Medicine Training, GCH)

**Dr Julia Crilly** (ED Nurse Researcher, GCH, Griffith University)

## **Co-investigators**

**Dr Julia Peters** (Registrar, GCH ED)

**Nerolie Bost** (Research Officer, GCH ED)

**Dr Gerben Keijzers** (Staff Specialist GCH ED, Bond University)

**Prof Marianne Wallis** (Nursing Research Chair, GCH & Griffith University)

**Marilla O'Dwyer, John O'Dwyer, Kerri Melki** (Australian E-Health Research Centre)

**Assoc Prof Vivienne Tippet** (Director, Australian Centre for Pre-Hospital Research, Queensland Ambulance Service)

GCH: Gold Coast Hospital; ED: emergency department

# Contributing Bodies

1. Queensland Health
2. Gold Coast Hospital Foundation
3. Queensland Ambulance Service
4. Australian E-Health Research Centre
5. Australian Centre for Pre-hospital Research
6. Griffith University
7. Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Foundation



Australian Centre for Prehospital Research



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# The Study

1. Project Team

**2. The study**

3. How HDI works (Efficiency)

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5. So what? (Relevance to health care)

**\*Health Data Integration....**



# Southern Area Health Service District

LOGAN  
HOSPITAL

QUEENSLAND  
AMBULANCE  
SERVICE

SOUTHPORT  
HOSPITAL

ROBINA  
HOSPITAL



# The Study

- AIM: to determine the impact of opening a new emergency department in Robina on the patient outcomes and service delivery for the Gold Coast Hospital
- It is suspected that the load balancing will improve
  - Ambulance delivery times
  - Overflow capability and
  - Patient outcomes
- Required data that can accurately trace each patient journey from Ambulance to ED to Admissions.
- Working with health data is challenging eg. guessed age, partial names (**DIRTY DATA**)

# The Study

- Design: One month pre and post comparative study
- Data collection: Using routinely collected health data from three different health information systems (Ambulance, ED, hospital)
- Link three HIS to create one complete data set



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# Overview

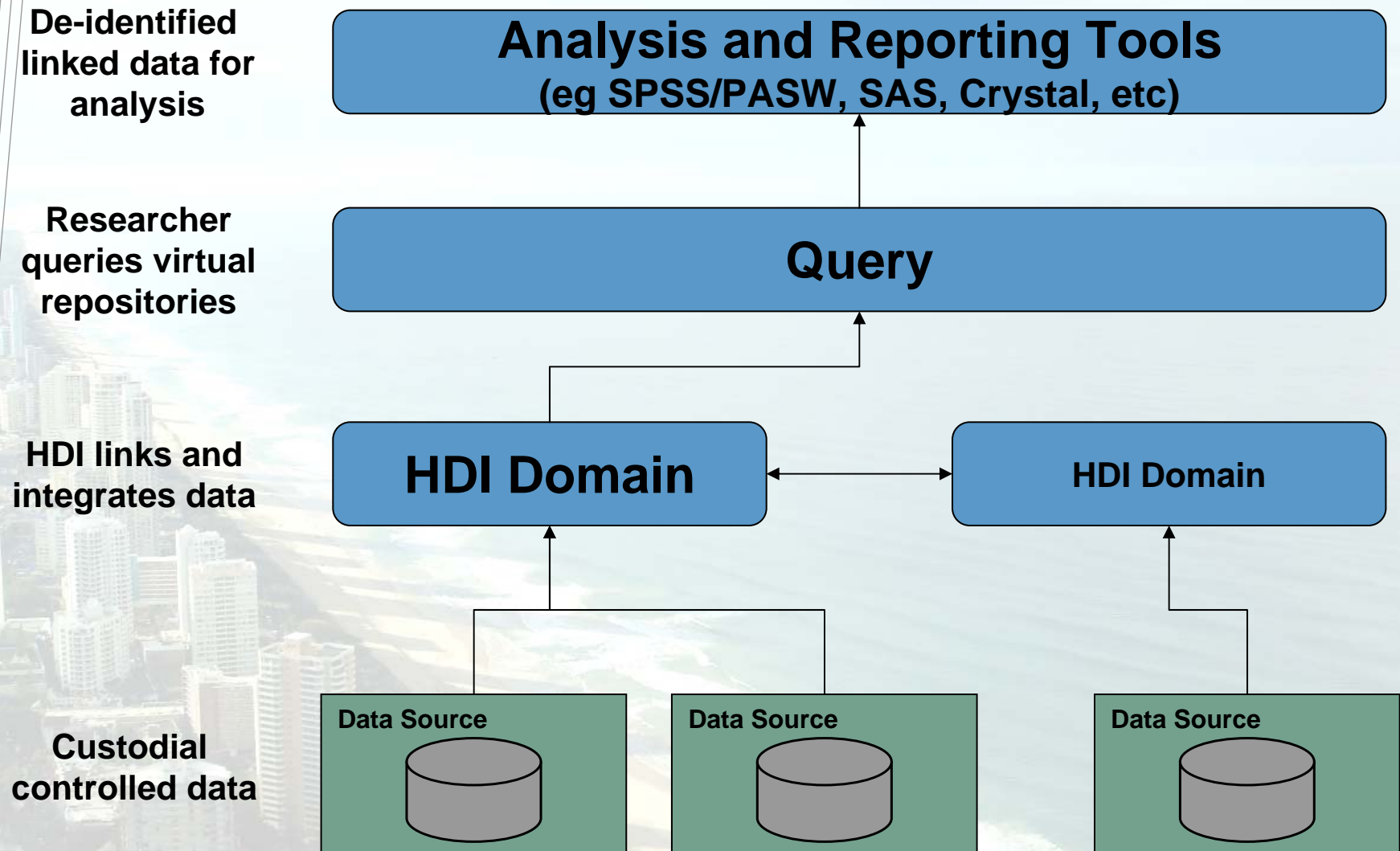
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# What is Health Data Integration (HDI)?

- Facilitates linking of patient information across multiple databases, at multiple locations, while maintaining their privacy and security
  - Encrypted linking to protect identity and personal information
  - Federated approach to integrate local data repositories – i.e. many local data sources operating as one and accessed remotely and securely
  - Allows data custodians to retain control of their data - they specify how much of their locally stored data is available to a specific project and in what format
  - Allows researchers or clinicians to access linked but de-identified data sets for further analysis and reporting (as per ethics agreements)



# HDI Platform Technology



# A different approach to matching.....

- Rule based approach
- Based on easily understandable 'human' approach to matching (Hansen & Maeder, 2007)
- User defined and completely configurable (eg can include 'case matching' in the criteria)

	<b>Probabilistic</b>	<b>HDI 'rule based'</b>
John Smith, 44, 1, Mon 3.00pm Jon Smyth, 43, 1, Mon 3.35pm	58%	Yes*
Andrea O'Conner, 23, 2, Fri 5.25am Andrea M. O'Connor 23, 1, Fri 6.00am	91%	Yes*
Rebecca Andersen, 38, 1, Tue 10.38pm Rebecca Andersen, 38, 1, Fri 4.52am	99%	No*
Bob Calender, 64, 1, Wed 7.49pm Robert Calendar, 66, 1, Wed 8.15pm	89%	Yes*

\* Based on linking algorithms used in REDI project



# What the data looks like.....

## Ambulance

PATIENT NAME: John A. Van Smith  
AGE-DOB: 01/06/1956  
GENDER: M  
D\_Triage: 02/05/2005 23:56

## ED

Present Name First:: Jon Anthony  
Present Name Surname: Van Smith  
Present Age in Years: 49  
Present Gender: m  
Triage At: 03/05/2005 00:34

## Admissions

LastName: Van Smythe, John Antony  
Age: 50  
Sex: M  
Ad Date: 03/05/2005  
Time: 01:02

- Names - different formats, spelling
- Age – date of birth, age, estimated age
  - le age difference for the same person up to  $\pm 5$  years
- Gender – different formats
- Case match – hours between Ambulance – ED and ED-Admissions
- Plus all the usual mis-spellings, data capture / entry errors and typos

# How we set it up to match.....

## Ambulance

PATIENT NAME: John A. Van Smith  
AGE-DOB: 01/06/1956  
GENDER: M  
D\_Triage: 02/05/2005 23:56

## ED

Present Name First: Jon Anthony  
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Present Age in Years: 49  
Present Gender: m  
Triageed At: 03/05/2005 00:34

## Admissions

LastName: Van Smythe, John Antony  
Age: 50  
Sex: M  
Ad Date: 03/05/2005  
Time: 01:02

## Standardise and transform data.....

FirstName: John  
Surname1: Smith  
Surname2: A. Van Smith  
Surname3: Van Smith  
Surname4: Van Smith  
AgeRange: 44-54  
Sex: 1  
CaseTimeFrom: 02/05/2005 23:00  
CaseTimeTo: 03/05/2005 02:00

FirstName: Jon  
Surname1: Van Smith  
Surname2: Van Smith  
Surname3: Van Smith  
Surname4: Van Smith  
AgeRange: 44-54  
Sex: 1  
CaseTimeFrom: 03/05/2005 00:00  
CaseTimeTo: 03/05/2005 03:00

FirstName: John  
Surname1: Van Smythe  
Surname2: Van Smythe  
Surname3: Van Smythe  
Surname4: Van Smythe  
AgeRange: 45-55  
Sex: 1  
CaseTimeFrom: 03/05/2005 01:00  
CaseTimeTo: 03/05/2005 04:00



# How it matches.....

## Ambulance

PATIENT NAME: John A. Van Smith  
AGE-DOB: 01/06/1956  
GENDER: M  
D\_Triage: 02/05/2005 23:56

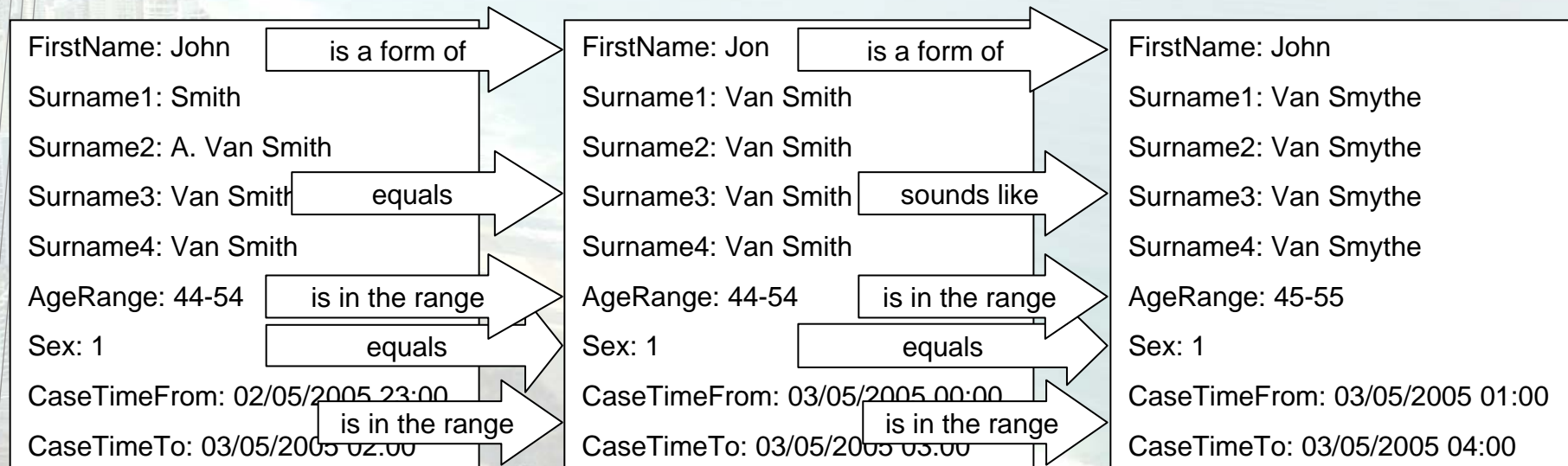
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Present Name First:: Jon Anthony  
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Triageed At: 03/05/2005 00:34

## Admissions

LastName: Van Smythe, John Antony  
Age: 50  
Sex: M  
Ad Date: 03/05/2005  
Time: 01:02

Link in HDI..... based on user-defined rules.....



# The Challenges

- **While working with the data we had to overcome some unique challenges**
- **Identity matching**
  - Often the age of an individual must be guessed
    - This may not exactly match the age captured in the ED or admissions data
  - Names are often misheard and may only sound like the actual name
    - Like in our example “Smythe” may be captured as “Smith” in the ambulance data
- **Case matching**
  - Match the Ambulance data with a specific Emergency Department arrival
    - Must match person’s ID
      - **AND**
    - The triage time in ED must be within a few hours of the Ambulance triage time
  - Similar measures must be taken with the matching from ED to Hospital Admissions

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# Linking Results: Manual vs HDI

## Gold Standard Results (Manual)

Case		EDIS
	Rows	10,835
QAS	3,469	3,192 (92.0%)
HBCIS	3,431	3,244 (94.5%)

## HDI Results

Case		EDIS
	Rows	10,835
QAS	3,469	3,049 (87.9%)
HBCIS	3,431	3,240 (94.4%)

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# Study Findings

- 10,835 patient presentations were made to the ED during two months
- Offload time decreased sig (11 mins to 10 mins,  $p < 0.001$ )
- Proportion offload delay ( $>15$  mins) decreased sig (38% to 27%,  $p < 0.001$ )
- Hosp LOS decreased sig
- ED LOS  $> 8$  hrs about 19% in both groups (NS)



# Study Conclusion

**The opening of a new ED had a positive effect on ambulance access to the ED, time to unloading of patients and hospital length of stay but had no effect on general ED functioning**

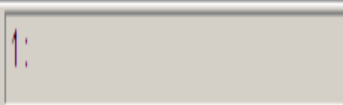
(Peters J, Crilly J, Lind J, Tippet V, O'Dwyer M, O'Dwyer J, Melki K, Bost N, Wallis M, Keijzers G 2008)



1.

Visible: 44 of 44 Variables

[illegible]

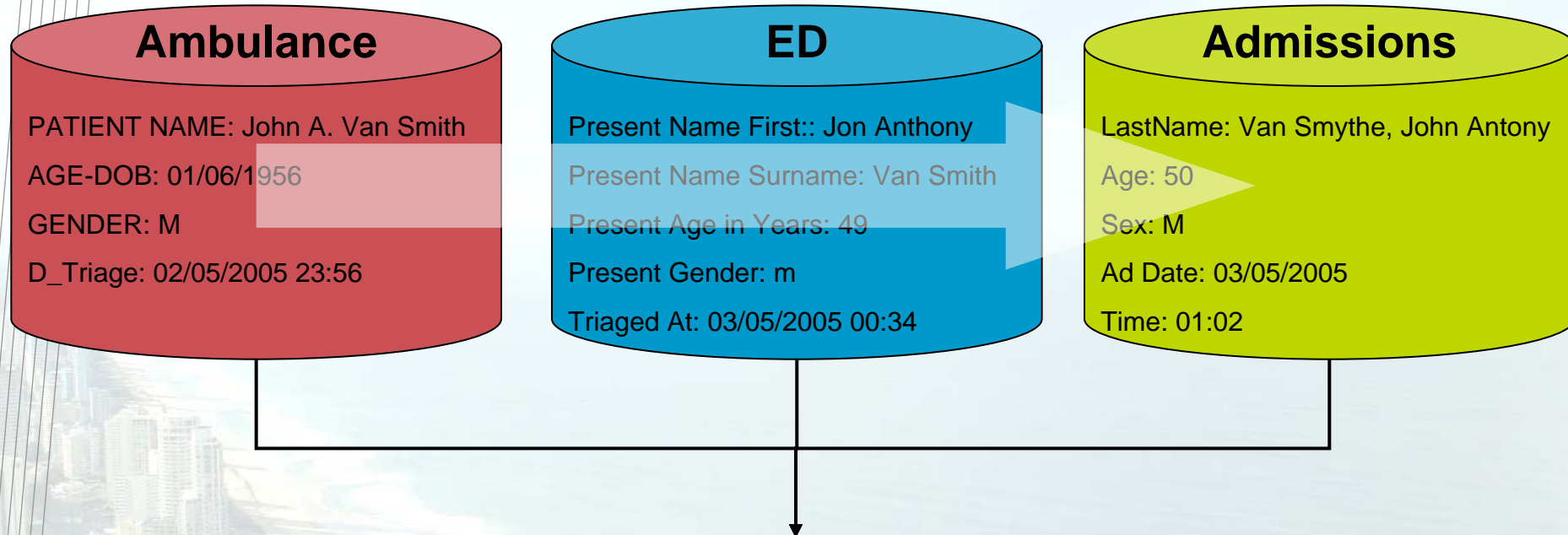
[illegible]



Visible: 44 of 44 Variables

[illegible]

# The REDI Result: a linked health care journey



**John Van Smith, approx 45, Male**

**Linked data for John allows us to answer research questions:**

**How long did it take the ambulance to get to John, from the time he called the ambulance?**

**How long did John wait to see a Dr in the ED?**

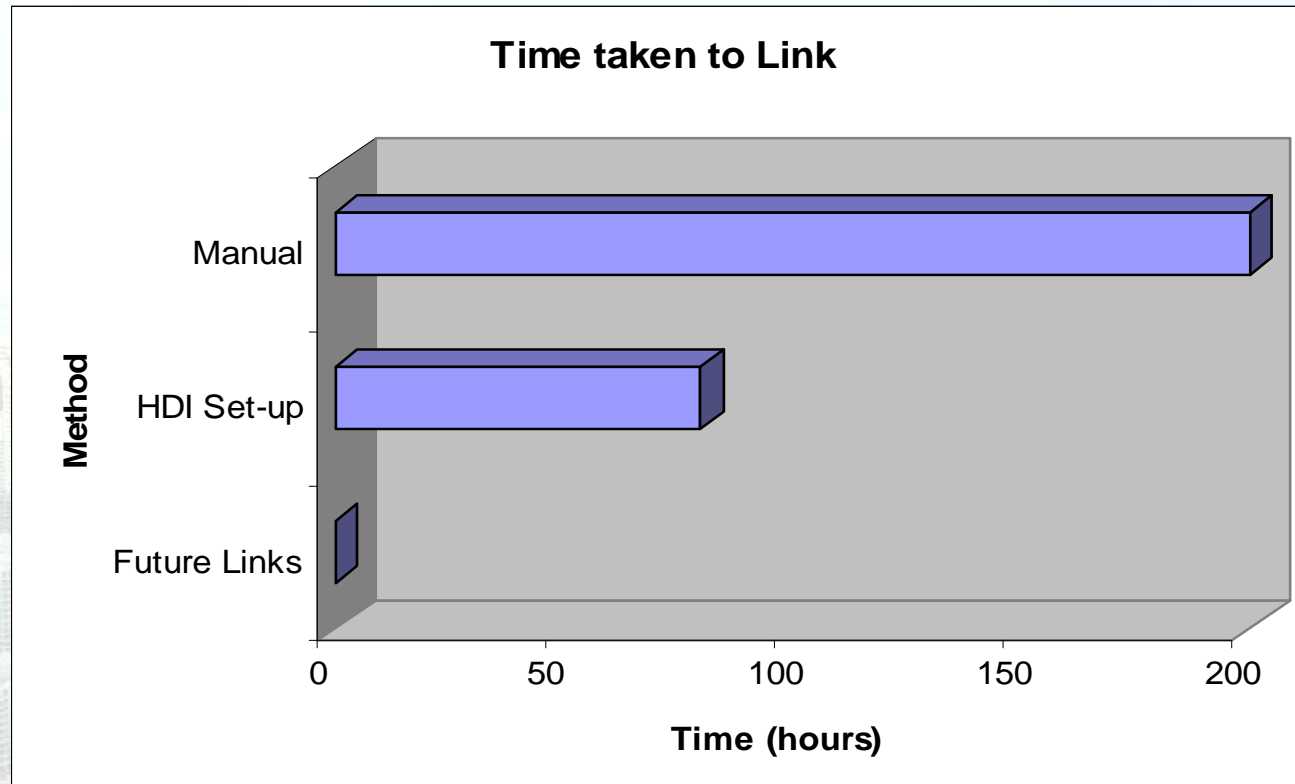
**How long did he wait in the ED?**

**Did he get admitted to hospital? Did he die in hospital?**

# So what?

## (Relevance to health care RESEARCHERS)

### 1. Time saving



2. Allows researchers to access linked but de-identified data sets for further analysis and reporting (as per ethics agreements)
3. Inform policy and practice development



# So what?

## (Relevance to health care PROVIDERS)

- Potential to have an integrated health care record
- Utilizing existing systems and information
- More 'real time'
- Multiple hospitals - benchmark



# So what?

## (Relevance to health care PROVIDERS)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

Delivering a Healthy WA



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## WA Public Hospital Activity



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### ED activity – now

The table below provides an up-to-date view of the status of the Emergency Department in each of the metropolitan hospitals that contains an Emergency Department.

#### Preview of Emergency Department (ED) figures at Tuesday, 11 August 2009 02:24 PM

Hospital	Ambulance diverted	Triage 4 patients average waiting time (minutes)	Number of patients waiting to be seen in ED	Total patients in ED
Armadale/Kelmscott District Memorial Hospital	No	45	12	38
Fremantle Hospital	No	71	3	40
Joondalup Health Campus	No	67	15	53
King Edward Memorial Hospital For Women	No	36	2	2
Princess Margaret Hospital For Children	No	25	7	31
Rockingham General Hospital	No	66	15	31
Royal Perth Hospital	No	63	10	53
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	No	145	13	56
Swan District Hospital	No	27	4	17

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# So what?

## (Relevance to health care PATIENTS)

- Improved outcomes and safety
- Benefit from efficiencies in process improvement





# Now What...

- Stage 1 - Completion of pilot  
(2 months data, 1 hospital)
  - Create one dataset showing all patient presentations to emergency via ambulance, then admitted into hospital.
  - Analyse data
- Stage 2 – Complete research project  
(2 years data, 3 hospitals)
  - Setup and configure a production ready HDI Server
  - Link and merge a larger dataset showing all patient presentations to emergency via ambulance, then admitted into hospital.
  - Analyse data

The image is a presentation slide. It features a blue header at the top with a white dot pattern. On the left side, there is a yellow vertical bar with several thin, parallel white lines extending downwards. The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a coastal city, showing a dense cluster of high-rise buildings along a sandy beach that meets the ocean. The word "Questions?" is centered in the middle of the slide in a large, black, sans-serif font.

Questions?