

# Chief Health Officer Seminar Series



## Governance of health information in a digital age

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*Public sector health information has long been imagined as a resource that can contribute to improved governance through its good management and timely transference. This is evidenced in 2 moments in the 20<sup>th</sup> C, the plans for the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories as the centre of an Australian public health service, and the establishment of the Commonwealth Bureau of Dental Standards in 1947. By the 1960s and 1970s talk of an information age, and the rising ubiquity of computing services was putting more pressure on the management of government information as a resource for serving social ends, a resource with value beyond its context of collection. By the 1990s Manuel Castells term the 'informational economy' pointed to the transformation of information into a qualitatively different kind of entity. The mutual co-production of globalisation, computerisation and the networked society means that productivity & competitiveness are increasingly been perceived as dependant on the capacity to produce, integrate & apply information in a world where capital, labour, materials, information, technology & markets are organised globally. This has had implications for health information. Public sector health information has value for public health and researchers have increasingly sought ways to create and integrate de-identified data-bases to better understand social determinants of health for example, or to plan interventions to modify patterns of health service provision. But there are other pressures, private sector information companies have sought out ways to expand the commercial reuse of health information, including information collected by public agencies. There are increasing pressures from citizens for access to information such as their medical records, and for easier access via the internet to information of all kinds. This presentation will explore some of the governance issues arising when health information is crossing and recrossing the blurred boundary between the complex array of public and private entities collaborating in Australia's health care. It will explore a framework for conceptualizing governance of public health information.*

### For further information contact

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To view the proposed 2005 seminar program, or the transcripts and slide presentations from previous years seminars, please visit the ANU Centre for Health Stewardship website at:  
<http://healthstewardship.anu.edu.au/>

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Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly

