

# The WCMICS Information Related Activities 2007/08

## Information Strategy

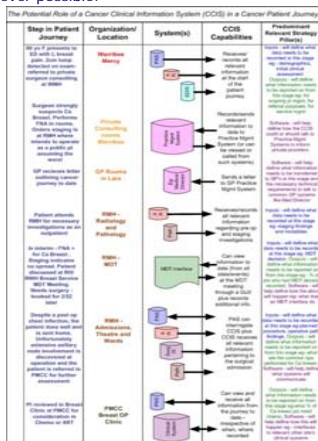
This is an overarching strategy (a "strategic framework") to define a way forward for comprehensive data collection, the production and dissemination of information, and the provision of appropriate software functionality to support the delivery of high quality cancer care within WCMICS. The ultimately implemented technical solutions in this area should fully support:

- the concept of a cancer patient journey and
- the collection of relevant data (Inputs) and provision of information to relevant parties (Outputs) in the course of care provision

Importantly, the WCMICS is, as are all of the ICS', a virtual organization. A virtual organization can be defined as "a combination of various parties (persons and/or organizations) located over a wide geographical area which are committed to achieving a collective goal by pooling their core competencies and resources". (Jansen et al, 1998). Tumour Groups, as key stakeholders in the virtual organization, have identified the need for robust and timely data collection and provision of information for patient management and to support the improvement of cancer services and research.

The key underlying principles of the strategy, in order to address the needs of the stakeholders, include:

- Robust data and information are prerequisites for usable knowledge in the delivery of cancer services.
- Relevant inputs (data) should be collected in the routine course of care planning or delivery wherever possible.
- Real time outputs (information) are necessary to support clinicians and managers in the provision of optimal cancer care.
- We are very aware of all the work around information and we will be working with the relevant agencies to harness existing frameworks, standards, data sets, technologies or tools wherever possible.



Through this strategy, the WCMICS can provide a framework within which the needs of all stakeholders can be delivered, to ensure consistency and reduce duplication of effort across the constituent organizations. This framework will facilitate strategic fit with other programmes, both local and state-wide. It will also provide a focus to support and/or lobby other relevant organizations, such as health services and the DHS, regarding data and information in the advancement of this strategy.

## MDT Meeting Software Project

The WCMICS' Tumour Groups have an established history of multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings. While the exact processes by which the MDT meetings operate vary across the ICS, the Tumour Groups have identified a number of common gaps/issues and opportunities for strengthening the existing processes. In particular the need for improved documentation at MDT meetings has been identified.

The *Strengthening MDT Meetings Project* was established to develop and implement tools/templates to facilitate documentation of the MDT meeting decisions and communication, including with the GP, thereby improving care coordination and strengthening the MDT processes across the WCMICS Tumour Groups.

The *MDT Software Project* aims to lever off the above mentioned work by developing a functional specification for software to be used to support patient and meeting management for MDT meetings across WCMICS. The rationale for the project is that any monies then provided to groups to support the purchase or development of such software can be applied against a framework of what functionality is needed to support the meetings, and what is the order of importance of this functionality. It will also facilitate a funding approach predicated on maximizing equity across the region, as well as providing a core document for use by other ICS', software developers and government departments working to support health services with relevant off the shelf solutions.



A range of MDT meetings have been attended to perform the relevant business analysis, including meetings at the following sites:

- PMCC - 3
- St Vincent's - 2
- RMH - 2
- RWH - 2
- Western Health - 1
- La Trobe Regional Hospital - 1 (multiple streams)
- Barwon Health - 1 (multiple streams)

The first 2 levels of functionality are close to finalisation and will be aligned with the outputs of the *Strengthening MDT Meetings Program*.

## ICS Data and IT Blog

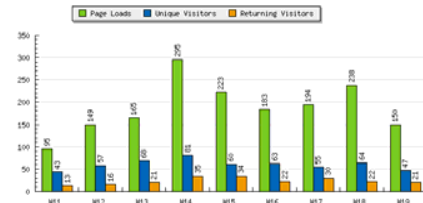
One common criticism of the ICS approach is that it divides the state up into regions which are somewhat arbitrary. In turn it is oft complained that there is not enough co-ordination between ICS (both rural and metropolitan) across the State. In the data and information domain, this has been addressed by the creation of an informal ICS Data and IT group, which meets regularly and also communicates between meetings by a moderated web-log (blog).

## WCMICS Web Site

Given the nature of the WCMICS as a virtual organization, the various avenues for communication and collaboration available via the World Wide Web provide important opportunities. The WCMICS Web Site was re-vamped in late 2007. Whilst still in need of a significant redesign, the revamp performed several functions in a short time frame and at low cost:

- To rationalise and update the information available on the site
- To provide several new elements to the site – including a News section which is updated at least weekly
- To act as a stimulus to increase the profile and use of the web site as a central means of communication for the WCMICS.

In addition, detailed web traffic monitoring functionality was incorporated through an external product. From the graph below it can be seen that from commencement of monitoring in March 2008, there has been an overall increase in usage with a constant stream of new visitors each week, as well as solid numbers of returning visitors.



## Consensus Data Set Projects

The rationale for these projects is the ongoing lack of coordination and coherence around data and IT in cancer care as consistently reported by clinicians, and the gap between the established national minimum data set (held by the AIHW – formerly called the NCCI-CCCD data set) and more clinically useful data that can be collected in, and used to support, routine care.

The WCMICS Directorate has committed to undertaking such projects in all streams to establish what additional data clinicians and other stakeholders require to support care, using the AIHW set as a common core for minimum guaranteed comparability, and as a step towards systems interoperability.

The CNS group has requested we adopt the Biogrid CNS data set for operational implementation. An initial opportunity for operational implementation with Biogrid is to be presented to the CNS group. The projects are also now nearing completion in 3 other streams (breast, upper GI and lung). We continue to actively engage with the other ICS' (metro especially), regarding wider adoption of the CDS'. DHS are aware of WCMICS work in this area and are supportive of it.

## Contact Us

For more information about the WCMICS information activities contact Dr Chris Bain:

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Or go to our website:

[www.wcmics.org](http://www.wcmics.org)