interRAI New Zealand Informatics Strategy 2018-2021

Introduction

The world of technology is advancing rapidly and affecting many aspects of our daily lives such as the way we shop, bank and travel. Health services are also being transformed by emerging technologies, changing what, how, where and when services are provided, as well as who provides them.

Technology is revolutionising health systems, involving more than just digital technologies: robots and other automated systems are carrying out repetitive and predictable processes. Advanced analytics are providing new insights into complex health problems and research breakthroughs in human science are making 'personalised medicine' a reality for more and more people.

New Zealand Health Strategy 2016-26

The New Zealand Health Strategy was refreshed in 2016. The strategy sets the direction for health and disability services for the future. The strategy has five interconnected themes as shown below:

Vision for health technology

The Ministry of Health has worked with the sector to develop a vision for health technology which outlines how technology is shaping the way New Zealanders 'get well, stay well and live well' in the future. The vision underpins the New Zealand Health Strategy 2016-26. This vision for health technology was developed with engagement from over 70 health professionals and consumers. It is a 'living' vision that will be refined and adapted over time in response to changing needs and emerging technology, as well as feedback from stakeholders.

The vision consists of nine themes which align to the five themes in the New Zealand Health Strategy to guide the development of technology strategies across the health sector.

New Zealand Digital Health Strategy

A draft of the New Zealand Digital Health Strategy was published in December 2017. The strategy is a living document intended to evolve over time in response to the changing digital world. It supports delivery of the vision and provides principles, strategic objectives, capabilities, enablers and a description of the digital environment that influences the success of the strategy.

Definition

The term 'digital health' is defined as:

- 'The use of digital technologies and accessible data and the associated cultural change it induces, aims to help New Zealanders manage their health and wellbeing and transform the nature of healthcare delivery'.

Principles

The Principles are the foundation for the strategy and its component parts. The component parts may change but the Principles will not.

Digital health is an eco system	The health sector has many agencies, organisations, and individuals making independent decisions as to how to engage, collaborate and allocate resources. The interaction of agents in the health sector is that of an ecosystem. The Strategy cannot take a directive approach to the implementation of digital services.
Human centred approach	This approach seeks to understand the experience people have in the health system and use this as a basis for innovation, improvement, and targeting inequities.
Leadership	This will focus on valuing strong consumer, executive, clinical and technology leadership at all levels.
Digital by default	The move to a 'digital by default' environment will give participants within the digital health ecosystem the ability to innovate and create value.
Resource efficiency	A successful public health and disability system must constantly seek to do more with less. Digital capabilities must seek to improve efficiency, performance and where possible, reduce the cost of service provision, as well as have a beneficial impact on the participants within the system. Over time duplication of data will be replaced by interoperability with established data sets.
Security and privacy by design	Security and privacy will be an important consideration when creating digital capabilities that share or access data and information. Trust by New Zealanders in the privacy and security of the health and disability system is paramount.
Act now	In a complex health environment, we often need to be prepared to set some parameters, make assumptions and then start the journey rather than try to remove uncertainty by exhaustive analysis or planning.

interRAI New Zealand

interRAI New Zealand is responsible for providing leadership and direction to ensure the continuous improvement of health outcomes for New Zealanders as they age, and the effectiveness and efficiency of our health system by guiding and leading the use of interRAI instruments and the dissemination and use of interRAI information.

The following objectives for interRAI in New Zealand have been agreed as the drivers for service development and delivery.

1. Consumers are receiving equitable access to and benefits from interRAI assessment regardless of their location in New Zealand.
2. Health outcomes are improved and health inequalities reduced for all those assessed through interRAI.
3. interRAI is effective in its use of funding and resources.
4. Promote the use by Government agencies of interRAI data as evidence in policy development where appropriate.
5. Promote the use of interRAI data and information to shape services and support best outcomes and continued service improvements.
6. interRAI data and information is accessible for research purposes.
7. Access to interRAI data is maximised whilst ensuring the privacy of consumers is safeguarded at all times.
8. New Zealand contributes to the international development of interRAI tools.
9. The interRAI suite of tools is successfully and consistently implemented and supported in all relevant settings in New Zealand.

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interRAI NZ Future Direction

The interRAI NZ Governance Board has developed 'interRAI NZ – Future Direction', a three-year rolling strategic plan which is updated each year.

The 'interRAI NZ – Future Direction' is based on the five themes of the New Zealand Health Strategy 2016-26 and how interRAI supports implementation of the strategy.

The 'interRAI NZ – Future Direction 2017-20' is published on the interRAI NZ website at www.interrai.co.nz/about/board/board-key-documents

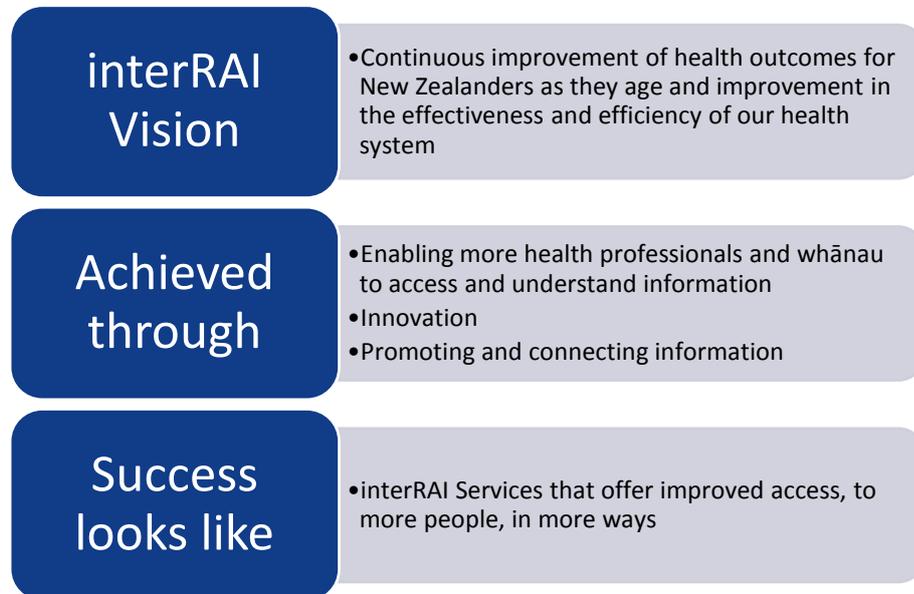## interRAI New Zealand Informatics Strategy

Framework

The interRAI NZ Informatics Strategy acknowledges the principles of the New Zealand Digital Health Strategy and the role of interRAI in the digital health ecosystem.

The interRAI NZ Informatics Strategy has been developed and will be implemented within the governance, standards and commitment to health interoperability described in 'Digital Health 2020'.

'Digital Health 2020' is described in detail on the Ministry of Health website at
www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ehealth/digital-health-2020

The interRAI NZ Informatics Strategy has adopted the nine themes of the vision for health technology in NZ as the framework for development.

Strategic vision

interRAI Vision	• Continuous improvement of health outcomes for New Zealanders as they age and improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of our health system
Achieved through	• Enabling more health professionals and whānau to access and understand information • Innovation • Promoting and connecting information
Success looks like	• interRAI Services that offer improved access, to more people, in more ways

Working to achieve the vision described above will enable interRAI Services to offer improved access, to more people, in more ways.

The primary purpose of interRAI assessment is to accurately determine the characteristics of a person in order to fully understand their needs, ranging from clinical to social support and prepare a care plan. A secondary purpose is the use of interRAI data by healthcare funders and providers for planning and service development and researchers to benefit the health of New Zealanders.

Our actions will enable health professionals and others across the health and social care sector to understand interRAI assessments and interRAI data. In turn this will lead to a more comprehensive picture of individual and population needs, leading to better evidence based decision making and improved health outcomes.

Digital technologies are changing the nature of healthcare delivery and how individuals manage their health and wellbeing.

The actions described in this strategy aim to support and drive the innovation needed to keep interRAI relevant and valuable.

Current features which support the strategy

A number of the current features of interRAI service delivery in New Zealand support the implementation of the Informatics Strategy.

A standardised assessment tool – All interRAI tools share a common language referring to the same clinical concepts in the same way across instruments, making it easy to build on previous assessments, even if they were done through a different tool in the suite.

National IT platform – All interRAI tools in New Zealand operate through a single national IT platform. This means that information only needs to be gathered once and this information can then be used by clinicians many times across care settings, and from any location in New Zealand, ensuring continuity of care.

National data analysis and reporting – The National interRAI Data Analysis and Reporting Centre collects, analyses and interprets information from interRAI assessments. The information does not identify individuals but provides the ability to benchmark service providers and also detect areas of high health need or where there might be emerging incidences of a particular health issue, to inform policy and service development.

The Centre holds all response data, outcome scales and clinical assessment protocols for every interRAI assessment that is completed in New Zealand.

Theme	Description	interRAI NZ Strategic Objective	Actions
Life Centred	Technology empowers people to fully participate in their health care and connect with health services in a way that fits best with their lives.	1 and 2	• Enable people to self-complete appropriate parts of interRAI assessments • Enable people and their nominated others to access and understand their interRAI assessment • Promote a more 'real time' picture of individual need incorporating change over time
Informed Choice	People have full access to their own health information and control over who else can access it. People make informed choices about the health and social services that work best for them	1, 2 and 7	• Enable people and their nominated others to access and understand their interRAI assessment • Use interRAI data and quality indicators to enable people to make more informed choices about their healthcare and who provides it
Closer to me	Care is provided closer to where people live, learn and work. Better access to technology removes isolation as people and communities become more connected.	1 and 9	• Explore opportunities for interRAI assessment to be undertaken remotely • Include a more comprehensive carer assessment in current and future NZ assessment tools • Make interRAI assessment possible and accessible on a wider range of devices
Sustained change and innovation	Technology change is both sustainable and considered in a New Zealand context. So it adds value to our health services.	3, 5, 7 and 9	• Make interRAI assessment possible and accessible on a wider range of devices • Future software decisions should enable greater innovation over a sustained period • Introduce new ways to enable and promote effective use of interRAI software • Streamline the mechanisms to support and maintain interRAI software • Meet IT and Data standards
Value for NZ	Investment targets inequities in knowledge and education, service access, connectivity and access to technology. Value is measured and information is used to drive learning and decision-making that will lead to better digital service delivery.	6 and 8	• Export the lessons learned and benefits of the NZ approach to the implementation of interRAI • Promote increased use of interRAI data in the development of health policy at national and local levels • Enable the linking of interRAI to other health and social care data • Streamline the mechanisms to support and maintain interRAI software
Collaborative care	Health services, social support services, whānau, communities and technology operate as a team in a high-trust system that works together and puts the person at the centre of their care.	4 and 7	• Look at ways to make interRAI software more easily and effectively interoperable with other health and social care systems • Enable a wider range of professionals to access, understand and use interRAI assessment information when planning care • Make interRAI assessment information easily accessible at all points along the care pathway • Promote increased use of interRAI information to support evidence based decision making
Responsive, predictive, personalised	Technology responds proactively to changing needs, knows a person's preferences and anticipates their needs. Individuals participate as full partners in their own health.	1 and 2	• Promote a more 'real time' picture of individual need incorporating change over time • Enable people and their nominated others to access and understand their interRAI assessment • Make interRAI data accessible on a wider range of devices • Make interRAI assessment information easily accessible at all points along the care pathway
Actionable insights	Data and technology improves evidence-based decisions. Health data from individuals and communities is used to inform health planning, policy and address inequities.	4,5,6 and 7	• Enable a wider range of professionals to access, understand and use interRAI assessment information when planning care • Promote increased use of interRAI information to support evidence based decision making • Enable the linking of interRAI to other health and social care data • Promote the development of interRAI data champions
Accessible, trusted information	Health information is secure, reliable, accurate and accessible when, where and in the form it is needed.	6 and 7	• Annual Board review of interRAI information governance and security • Consider if 'cyber security' insurance would be beneficial • Develop ways to ensure and evidence the quality of interRAI data