Education as infrastructure for ehealth: considerations in implementing a national agenda for ehealth

The implementation of eHealth in Australia is a key priority of governments, health professional groups and consumers. In recent years, significant milestones have been reached in the roll out of eHealth infrastructure and there is a significant momentum building toward the introduction of a personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) in 2012.

A national ehealth system requires a number of infrastructure initiatives to support successful implementation, including adoption and sustainability.

However without educational infrastructure that is deliberately positioned as part of the ehealth agenda, change and adoption will be ineffective, because those who are meant to use ehealth and benefit from it may fail to understand it, or may hold misconceptions about it, or may not be aware of it.

In this environment there is an opportunity for NEHTA to facilitate the development of a strategic approach to eHealth education, training and research in Australia.

This session we will consider the role of education in large scale initiatives to implement ehealth in healthcare systems, and glean possible future directions for ehealth education, and the role for NEHTA’s to play.