



Two years on
and still going strong

**Together.
Further.
Faster.**

Partnerships

Sparked is a partnership between the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Australian Digital Health Agency, CSIRO and HL7 Australia.



Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**



Australian Government

Australian Digital Health Agency



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From the Sparked team

To the Sparked community,

We're writing to you to thank you for the time, energy and effort you've contributed to the Sparked FHIR accelerator, and to take a moment here today to celebrate the achievements of this truly unique program.

Funded by the Australian Government, Sparked is a collaboration between the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA), the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency), CSIRO and HL7 Australia.

In the two years since the inception of Sparked, the team has had the privilege of shepherding a grand and critical idea into action and tangible change.

In August 2023 Sparked was launched – an ambitious program by anyone's account in that it relied on the engagement and activity of an entire community of clinicians, developers, medical software industry, researchers and government representatives to achieve its central goal – accelerate and co-design a set of healthcare standards for Australia.

Now, two years on, Sparked has exceeded expectations, met its deliverables and is well on the way to achieving its goal – thanks to the enormous enthusiasm and resounding commitment from people like you.

You have devoted over 21,000 expert hours, through attending over 145 meetings, four leadership events and six HL7 AU Connectathons from August 2023 until May 2025. On the back of this work, the program has delivered three fundamental pieces of work, AUCDI, AUeReq DI and AU Core FHIR IG, which have already begun to be actioned through industry deployments, as we have all seen recently through demonstrations by industry leaders.

It would be safe to say that it's rare in the history of systemic transformation in any field for there to be this much actioned buy-in and support of co-design than in Sparked. In the process we have heard stories from clinicians highlighting the criticality of standards for healthcare and input from those at the frontlines of healthcare – GPs, specialists, allied health providers, aged care professionals, community healthcare workers, consumers and many more – who are coming to the table to co-develop standards that they can and will use.

We have also seen support from the medical software industry and software developers, keen to get the systems right in the first place so they can optimise the way healthcare is delivered and received in Australia.

Through multiple modalities, including our Sparked Podcast, event interviews, videos and presentations, you have shared your stories, given of your expertise and brought enormous passion to this project.

The strength of Sparked lies in its bottom-up process of community consultation and consensus.

”

Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Mark Butler MP

We thank you for your spark and hope this document provides you with the energy and verve to keep the Sparked fire stoked and burning brightly. What does this all mean? Sharing the right health information at the right time reduces the need for patients to carry their story with them. It helps doctors make better decisions, supports health funding, and improves care for everyone. When our systems work together, we can deliver better healthcare for all Australians.





Come with us... from the beginning

Media Release: FHIR Accelerator Program

“Sparked to Life”: Australia’s bold step towards streamlined digital healthcare with new national FHIR accelerator program.

25th August 2023 - An Australian-first FHIR accelerator, Sparked, has been launched in Brisbane, which aims to deliver a core set of FHIR standards for use in Australian settings over the next two years, developed by and for the community.

A new consortium including the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) and HL7 Australia has been established to drive the project.

The establishment of Sparked signals the Australian Government’s prioritisation of interoperability and the sharing of standards based clinical data across healthcare nationally. Grahame Grieve, the Australian-based founder of the international health data and exchange standard, Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR), said “FHIR accelerators, such as the Argonaut Accelerator in the USA, have been successful in increasing the exchange of information to support patient care. The key to its success was the iterative and open nature of the development process, anybody could participate, not just the vendors.”

At the recent HL7 Australia Connectathon in Brisbane on 23 August 2023 to launch Sparked, Simon Cleverley, Assistant Secretary Digital Health Branch at DOHAC said “Investing in the development and implementation of national core health information sharing standards is a huge step forward for Australia’s healthcare system. With the funding provided in the 2023-24 Federal Budget, we will be able to build the core standards needed to create a more seamless and connected healthcare system that can meet the expectations of Australian patients who want safe and secure access to their important health information.”

Peter O’Halloran, Chief Digital Officer at the Australian Digital Healthcare Agency says “The launch of Sparked excites us as a pivotal move towards seamless healthcare data exchange. Aligned with the recently launched National Healthcare Interoperability Plan, it will help connect systems across Australia. This step embodies our commitment to patient-centred care underpinned by digital innovation supporting a healthier future for all Australians.”

Since 2014, FHIR has rapidly emerged as a best practice international standard for electronic health data exchange and is a beacon of innovation. Many countries including the USA and the UK have heavily accentuated the role FHIR plays in their health system.

CEO of CSIRO’s Australian e-Health Research Centre and Community Coordinator for Sparked, David Hansen said, “Facilitating the safe and effective exchange of information is one of the fundamental keys to better health care. Sparked represents a wonderful opportunity to improve healthcare systems for consumers and clinicians and CSIRO is delighted to lead the community coordination.”

Sparked will adopt the Australian FHIR Community Process (AFCP) in which members of the community come together to develop national standards through a consensus-led approach.

HL7 Australia’s Chair Isobel Freen noted the critical importance of the Australian FHIR Framework and Community process which underpins Sparked and future accelerators. “The AFCP’s collaborative approach to further develop and maintain the FHIR standard ensures its relevance and adaptability to the evolving needs of the healthcare sector”.

FHIR accelerator program media release,
25th August 2023



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Dear Stakeholder

The Australian government is investing in building modern digital and data foundations that will deliver a personalised and connected health and wellbeing experience for all Australians. Improved health system interoperability that supports seamless sharing of health information between primary care, hospitals, aged care and to other parts of the health system is critical to delivering this.

Standardising Information Sharing

The 2023-24 Federal health budget has provided funding to develop core national data and exchange standards for the consistent capture of patient health interaction information, supported by implementation guides, to enable open national data exchange and data sharing capabilities across Australia's health ecosystem.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has been funded to support the Department of Health and Aged Care (the department), the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) and Health Level Seven Australia (HL7 AU) to accelerate the development of national Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards, which is an international data and exchange standard.

CSIRO, with support from the broader consortium—the department, Agency, and HL7 AU—will oversee the establishment of a national FHIR Accelerator that will deliver the following essential components to support the use of FHIR in an Australian context:

- Australian (AU) Core and AU eRequesting data sets for interoperability
- AU Core FHIR Implementation Guide/s
- AU eRequesting FHIR Implementation Guide/s, and
- Associated national terminology value sets, with an initial focus on diagnostics

In its capacity as the standards development organisation, HL7 AU will establish and provide ongoing management of an Australian FHIR Management Framework (AFMF).

Supporting the FHIR Accelerator Launch – Brisbane, August 23-24

I am writing to invite your organisation to participate in the FHIR Accelerator. We are seeking your expertise and support to collaborate on validating national FHIR standards to ensure their applicability in meeting your customers' and broader consumer needs.

We have planned two key events to support the launch of the FHIR Accelerator:

- An information session and scoping workshop to provide details of the FHIR Accelerator and support ongoing clinical and technical design, and
- A formal launch of the FHIR Accelerator, which will be attended by senior executives from the department, Agency, CSIRO, and HL7 AU and key stakeholders from across the healthcare industry.

I invite you to:

- nominate clinical and/or technical experts to take part in the FHIR Accelerator Kick off and Scoping workshop to be held on the 23rd of August. This workshop will be part of the [HL7 AU Connectathon](#) (23rd to 24th of August at the Genie Solutions office in Brisbane), and
- RSVP your attendance at the formal launch of the FHIR Accelerator that will take place at the Telstra Health office in Brisbane on the evening of the 23rd of August.

On behalf of the consortium, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and dedication towards better connecting our healthcare system.

Yours sincerely

Simon Cleverley
Assistant Secretary
Digital Health Branch
Medicare Benefits and Digital Health Division
20 July 2023

Sparked means community.
Not just the community being
engaged but the community
leading with everyone jumping
in and working together.

Danielle Tavares-Rixon



The Sparked difference

Sparked is Australia's first national HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) accelerator, established to advance healthcare interoperability through open, community-driven development of FHIR standards, clinical terminology, clinical data models and associated data assets.

Not a small mission by any stretch. None the less, in July 2023 the Connecting Australian Healthcare – National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028 (the Plan) was released, painting a bold vision: a connected healthcare system that is smooth, secure and smart with data when it matters most.

The clearest path we had to ensuring Sparked hit its mark was by true community engagement and co-design. After all, there's no point in creating standards that look great on paper but never get used because they don't actually solve real problems.

That's why CSIRO has taken the lead on making sure co-design and community input are at the heart of the project – and so far, the level of engagement has been nothing short of amazing.

These days, Sparked isn't just making waves at home – it's also getting international attention as a standout FHIR accelerator. What sets us apart? It's our genuine, clinically driven, community-first approach and our commitment to building national, open standards that work in the real world.

I love data. Not the datasets specifically, but everything we can do with that data once it is in a usable and meaningful format. I am excited about the endless possibilities and data led insights we will have access to and be able to leverage in improving our current healthcare system to build a world leading digitally enabled future state of healthcare.

Mehmet Kavlakoglu

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So, what can we actually do with HL7 FHIR standards?



Patient summaries
information can be based on the latest data sourced from multiple systems.



Chronic condition management plans developed to align with national standards and used in multiple systems.

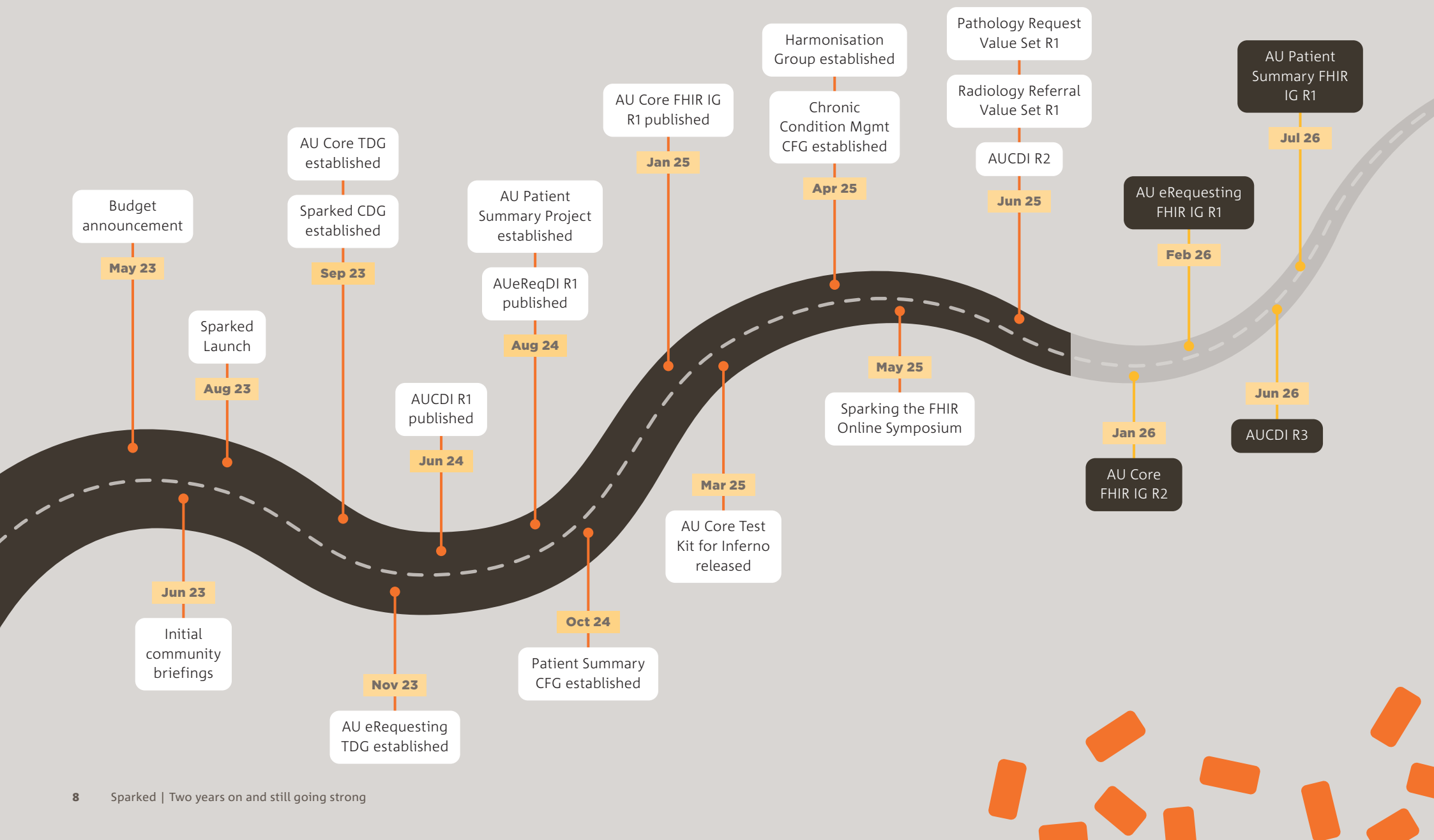


Transition of MyHealth Record to a FHIR based data rich platform that will support access to and reuse of atomic data.



e-Requesting and e-Referral data set, the foundation for consistent transfer of information requesting across health sectors, supporting clinical workflow and a holistic view of a patient's journey from request to result.

Look what we've done together!



Process and operating model

- Trialled the Australian FHIR Community Process for the Development of Priority Data Models (AU Clinical Data for Interoperability (AUCDI)) and R1 specifications (AU Core R1)
 - Completed for all AU FHIR IGs
 - Completed for AUCDI and AUeReqDI
- Trialled the FHIR Management Process
 - Completed by all AU FHIR IGs
- Evaluated program (FHIR Community Process) and Target Operating Model which includes the Technical Standards Development Governance
 - To be advised as completed by DHDA
- Established a prioritised pipeline for future data model and FHIR specification development
 - Completed as backlogs for AU FHIR IGs and AUCDI
- Establishment of an active community of clinicians, healthcare workers, software developers, healthcare organisations, consumers and government agencies that are contributing to the development of interoperability standards
 - Overachieved on all points

Standards products

- Published Australian Clinical Data for Interoperability (AUCDI)
- Published AU eRequesting Data for Interoperability (AUeReqDI)
 - will become merged with AUCDI from R3
- Published HL7 AU FHIR Implementation Guides of AU Core R1, AU Patient Summary R1 and AU eRequesting R1

Other products

- Infrastructure to support development and publishing of FHIR IGs
 - Completed for AU Core, AU Patient Summary – HL7AU Reference Infrastructure and Community Resources
 - regularly updated in line with FHIR IGs
- Open-source tools to implement and test FHIR applications including test cases.
 - Completed for AU Core as above other Inferno Test Kits will be available just after each FHIR IG publication
- FHIR servers that support implementation and testing of FHIR applications
 - Completed for AU Core, AU Patient Summary – HL7AU Reference Infrastructure and Community Resources
 - regularly updated in line with FHIR IGs
- Development of five Patient Summary consumer journeys to support development of AUCDI and AU Patient Summary

Other highlights

- August 23 Accelerator official launch
- Stood up Clinical Design Group in September 23
- Stood up Technical Design Group for AU Core in September 23
- Stood up TDG for AU eRequesting in November 23
- Stood up AU Patient Summary Project Team in August 24
- Stood up AU Patient Summary Clinical Focus Group in October 24
- Stood up Harmonisation Group in April 25
- Stood up Chronic Condition Management Clinical Focus Group in April 25
- Stood up HL7AU new processes for balloting etc
- TDG and CDG meetings – 137 online meetings and 23 in-person workshops/events from September 23 to May 25
- Feedback on AUCDI R1 which was significant
- AUCDI R2 AU Patient Summary feedback
- AUCDI R2 Chronic Condition Management feedback

Partner spotlight

CSIRO

Community coordinator leading the development of the FHIR standards, national data for interoperability and terminology value sets.

The Agency

Governance of digital health standards focusing on prioritisation to enable increased use, implementation and development of digital health standards.

DHDA

Strategic leadership for national healthcare agenda.

HL7 AU

Facilitate the adoption of e-health in Australia by promoting effective use of standards and products developed by HL7 International and supporting their enhancement to meet local needs.

The Sparked program is unique in that it is taking a truly multi-disciplinary approach in order to tackle problems faced with health data interoperability. The program combines expertise from CSIRO, government, industry, clinicians and technologists which is unlike any other project that I have been involved with before.

Chat Athukorala

Inclusiveness and welcoming in spirit – and the dog wagging the tail instead of the tail wagging the dog in that the clinicians and industry decide instead of faceless policy experts.

Chris Moy

SPARKLE'S FUN FACTS

Sparkled was originally going to be called Sparkle, but since the program 'sparkled the FHIR' in us, it was called Sparkled instead.

Since the name Sparkle was popular, Sparkle the Australian Shepherd became part of the team.



The energy is different. Sparked feels more like a movement than a program. it's a collective of people from all parts of the ecosystem who actually do things, not just talk about them.

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Paris Majot



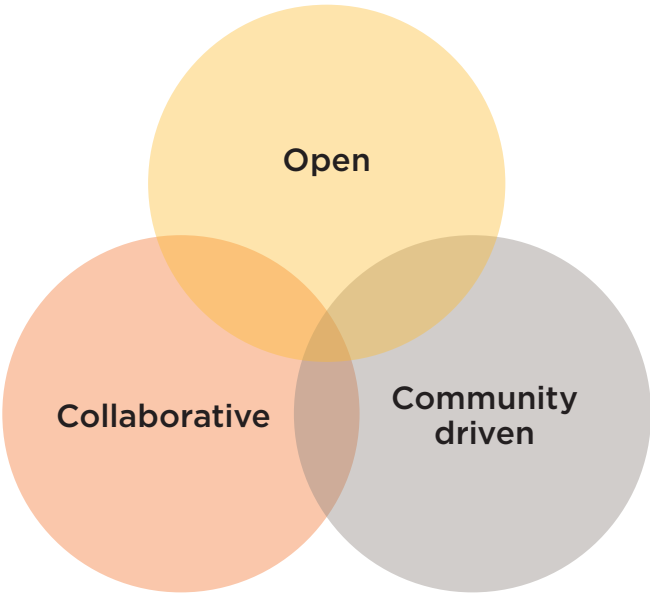
Community spotlight

Standards are only as strong as their community

The Sparked community is helping shape the future of digital health in Australia by bringing together clinicians, developers, government, and health experts to co-design and develop national digital health standards. By working together, they're making sure diverse perspectives and requirements are heard and understood, ensuring the standards are representative of the Australian community's healthcare needs.

SPARKLE'S FUN FACTS

The Sparked Founding and Supporting Members are organisations who support the objectives and outcomes of Sparked, and actively participate through attending design group meetings, reviewing outputs, participating in ballot for comment, attending in-person events, and participating in HL7 AU Connectathons. There are currently 100+ founding members.



Current member stakeholder type, broken down by high level category (as at April 30 2025)

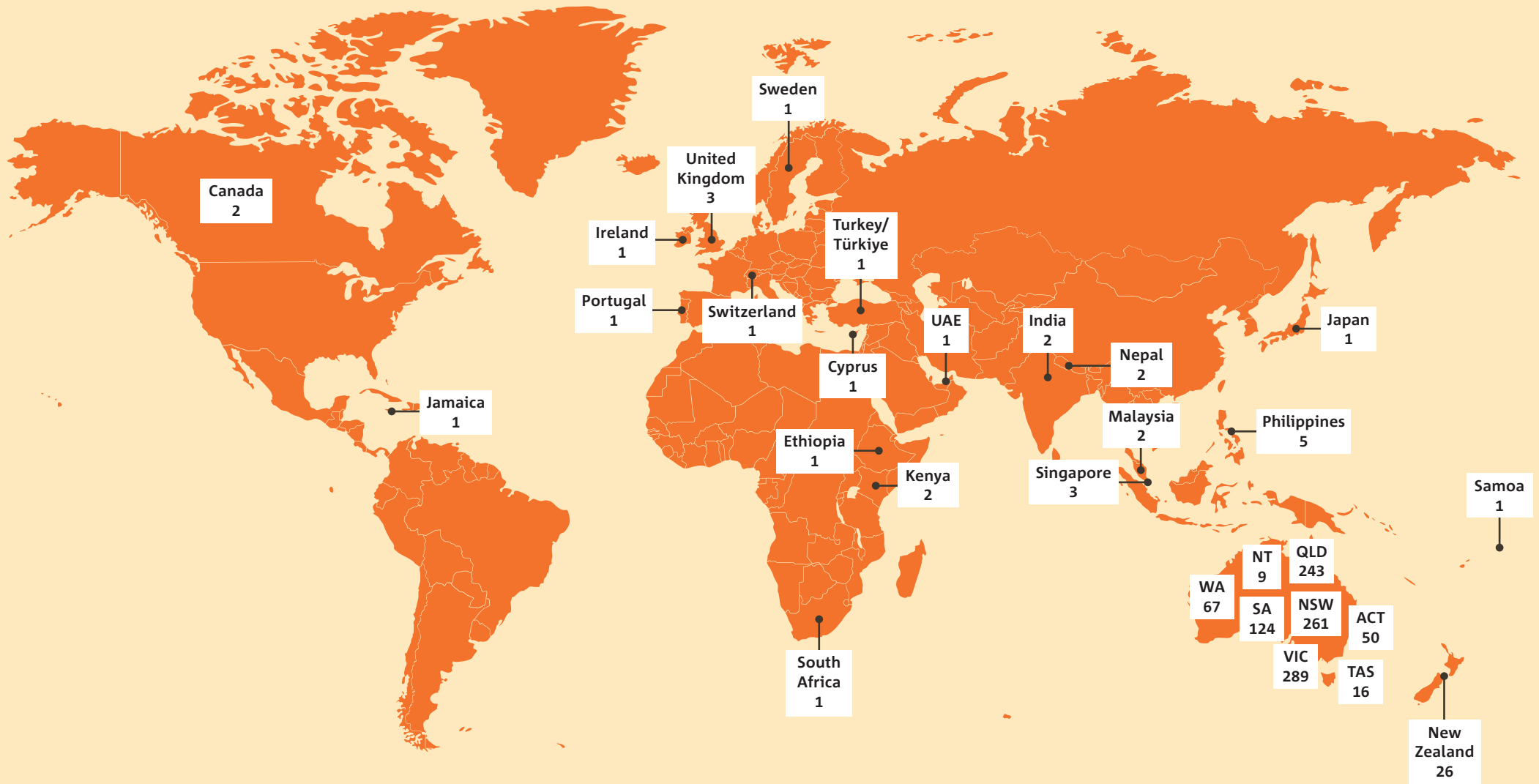
HIGH-LEVEL CATEGORY	MEMBER COUNT
Consumers	20
Government	271
Health Professionals	421
Sparked	22
Universities	63
Unknown	5
Vendors	406



Sparked is actively driving the critical adoption of interoperability standards, enabling safer, more efficient healthcare by ensuring clean, reliable data flows effectively across the health system.

Kim Drever

Where in the world is the Sparked community?



Each workshop just keeps getting better and better!

Jessica White



Events spotlight

Events are a big part of life at Sparked as they're a chance to get the community together to learn and make big decisions about standards in Australia. Here's a snapshot of some of our events.

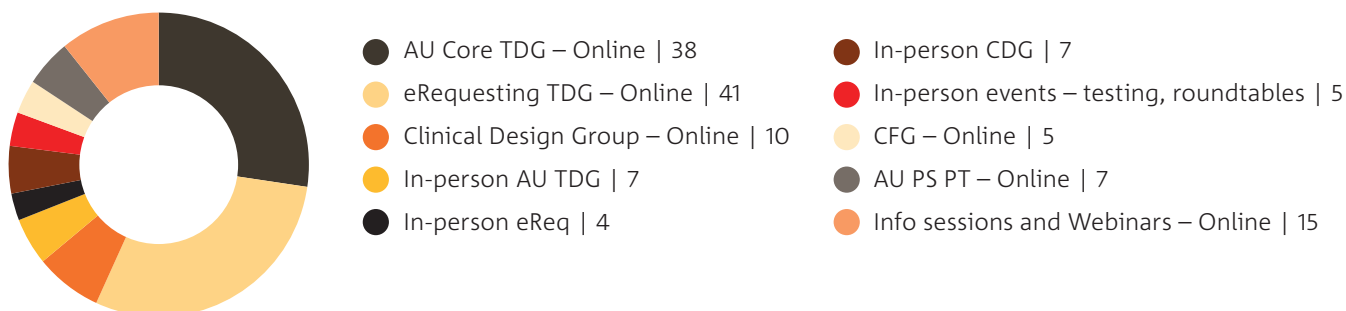
- **Sparked Launch party**
Brisbane, August 2023
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Sydney, October 2023
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Melbourne, February 2024
- **Sparked Leadership Event**
Sydney, February 2024
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Sydney, May 2024
- **Multiple AU Core R1 (Draft) Testing Events**
Sydney and Melbourne, July 2024
- **Sparked Rural and Remote Health Equity Roundtable**
Darwin, July 2024
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Brisbane, September 2024
- **Sparked in Western Australia**
Perth, November 2024
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Melbourne, November 2024
- **Sparked Leadership Event**
Melbourne, November 2024
- **Sparked AU Core/Patient Summary Scoping Workshop**
Melbourne, December 2024

- **Sparked Leadership Event**
Adelaide, February 2025
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Adelaide, February 2025
- **AU Core R1, AUeReq R1 (Draft) and AU PS R1 (Draft) Combined Testing Event**
Brisbane, June 2025
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Sydney, July 2025
- **Sparked Leadership Event**
Canberra, November 2025
- **Sparked Design Group workshops**
Canberra, November 2025

I am amazed at how much fun Sparked AU makes these events, and how much work the team can get us to achieve in a day. No wonder there are more people waiting to contribute that fit in the room! It was wonderful that with so much content there was still time for the team to consider feedback from so many viewpoints. Go Sparked AU!

Melinda Wassell

Total number of online and in-person events, broken down by category



Health equity events

We really wanted to shine a light on why our bottom-up, community-first approach matters so much. We've been deliberately focusing on parts of the healthcare system where better data exchange isn't just nice to have – it's essential.

Take rural and remote healthcare, for example. In these areas, patients might have to travel hundreds of kilometres just to access basic services. Some are nomadic, turning up at clinics far from where they were last seen. The healthcare workers? They might be fly-in, fly-out or locums doing short stints – so continuity of care is already a huge challenge.

That's why we've made it a priority to listen to the people working and living in these situations. Hearing their stories, understanding the real-world issues they face – it's been eye-opening. It's been absolutely crucial in helping us make sure the standards we're building will actually work for everyone, no matter where they are or how they access care.

SPARKLE'S FUN FACTS

Do you know we have a LinkedIn page? This is where we share events and happenings in the Sparked community.

Why don't you give us a follow – 2000+ other people have so far!



Rural and Remote Health Equity Round Table

Darwin, July 2024

- Perspectives on rural, remote, and equity considerations for health data exchange.
- To identify the next set of priorities of our data for interoperability roadmap.
- Key themes:
 - Standards require collaboration.
 - Social determinants of health.
 - Social and emotional wellbeing.

Thanks Sparked AU and NT Health for hosting.

#interoperability community is growing. Great to hear the benefits of information sharing in rural and remote health care. Learned a lot about the important of community and SEWB in health delivery.

Alastair MacDonald



Health equity event in NT

Take it from one of us... Sparked is pure poetry

One of our Sparked community members was so inspired by a Sparked event – she took pen to paper!



Poem author and Sparked community member, Juliana Iles-Mann

Sparked, on FHIR – Brisbane

Set fire to the rain
Burn
This girl is on fire
The music sets the scene
Excitement, anticipation, reflection

A large cross section of representatives
Breaking down the barriers
Sharing
Core of the core
The next big steps
Learning health system

INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SUMMARY
From curated to generated
Standards
My Health Record on FHIR
Access to health information anywhere!
Interoperability, access, support

The voice of the consumer when the consumer is not present
Transition and continuity is vital
Empathy
Building agency and adding value
It's about what is important to patients
Appropriate, relevant, impactful

It is complex with multiple disconnected systems
What is the single source of truth?
Aspirational
Something is better than nothing
Challenge the mindset
Right data, right format, right time

REASON FOR ENCOUNTER
Clinical alignment with patient perspective
Linkage
It's all about demonstrating value
What does the healthcare system need tomorrow?
Connected, dynamic, longitudinal

eREQUESTING IN ACTION
Needs a nationally standardised terminology catalogue
Value
Alignment in thinking now!
What can we deliver by when?
Leverage learnings, technology uplift, build the foundation

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT
Information is unconnected, insufficient and imbalanced
Individualise
We need to rethink the model and change needs to be supported
'Circle of Care' concept
Structured, integrated, multidisciplinary

THE NEXT BIG STEPS
How best to support the patient – what do they need?
Inclusion
Clinicians are key to the journey
Build on the journey of others
Keep pursuing change!



This is the first time that an open, transparent, FHIR specification development process has been used in Australia.

Andy Bond

Breaking down barriers

One of the features of our open, collaborative approach is that it breaks down barriers.

Technical v clinical

We've challenged some of the usual barriers between the technical and clinical side of healthcare – and in doing so we're educating the health workforce and enabling them to co-design national digital health changes.

Sure, we've got separate design groups – because there are definitely different things to think through depending on whether you're coming from a clinical or technical angle. But we're big on making sure those spaces aren't siloed.

So if you're developer you're welcome at the Clinical Design Group (CDG) and if you're a clinician curious about why data doesn't just magically flow between systems, we encourage you to participate in the Technical Design Groups (TDG).

It's all about learning from each other!



Peter O'Halloran, Chief Digital Officer at the Australian Digital Health Agency, presenting at a Sparked leadership event

Clinical Design Group (CDG) spotlight

What does the CDG do?

CDG Membership | 849 members (as at April 30 2025)

This group makes sure we're getting the clinical side of things right – keeping our data standards practical, relevant, and grounded in real-world healthcare needs. By involving clinicians and experts, we make sure the standards we create work optimally in day-to-day care.

Who it's for: Anyone in the standards community or anyone keen to help shape how health data is designed and used across Australia. That includes healthcare workers, software vendors, patients, policy people, government representatives, and anyone involved in developing standards. Everyone's welcome to pitch in.

SPARKLE'S FUN FACTS

What's been added to the Sparked FHIR Playlist and now on high rotation – The Spark by Kabin Crew. Get listening to the tunes that will FHIR you up on Spotify.



Sparked is different to other projects because there are so many people involved who are actually the stakeholders with 'real skin' in the project working collaboratively to get this project off the ground and working.

Charlotte Hespe



Want to become a Sparked supporting member? It's easy.

Eligibility criteria are to:

- Review and test Sparked products
- Attend design group meetings
- Attend Sparked in-person workshops and attend HL7 AU Connectathons.



Technical Design Groups (TDG) spotlight

AU Core TDG Membership | 722 members

AU eReq TDG Membership | 605 members

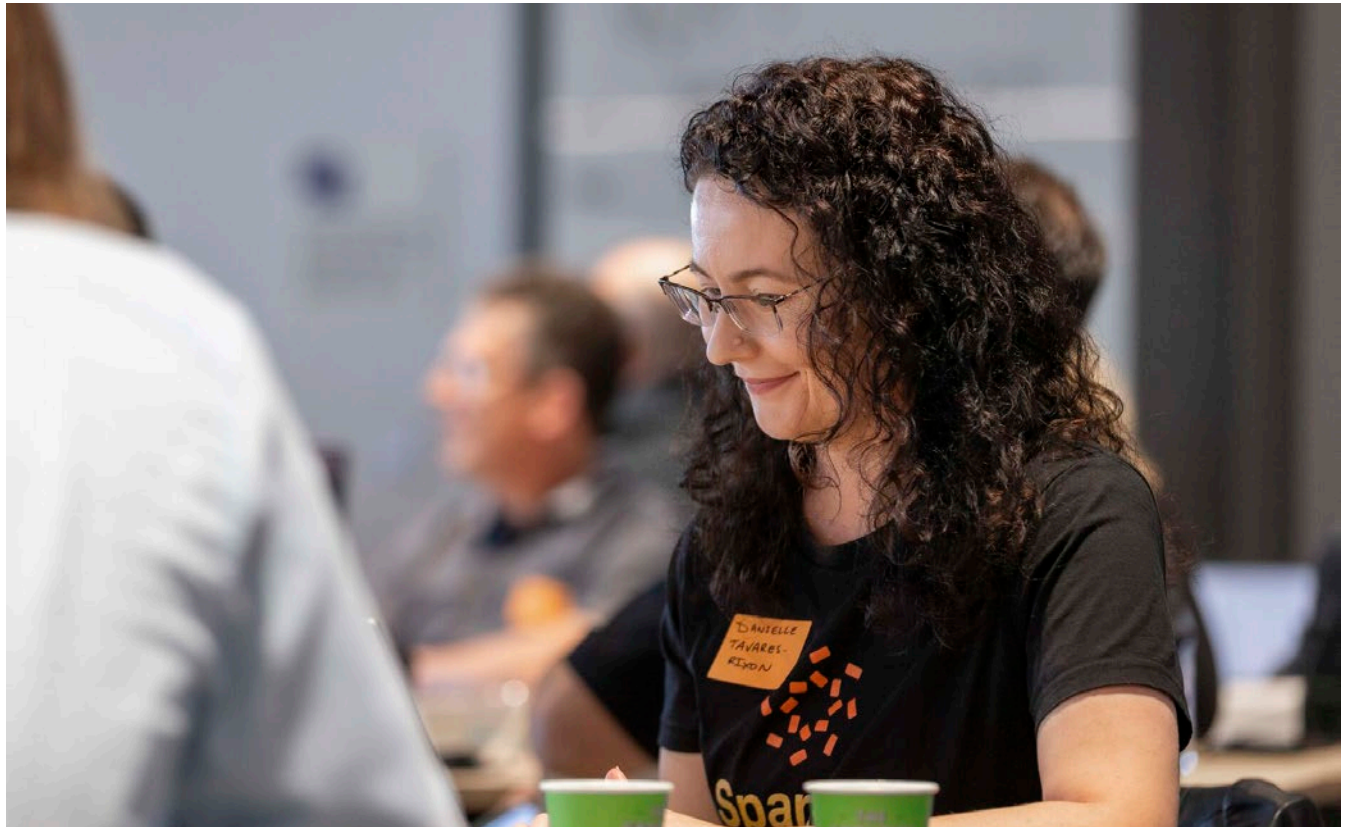
These groups handle the nuts and bolts of the FHIR Implementation Guides – things like how they're designed, how community feedback gets worked in, and how they go through the official HL7AU processes like balloting, all under the Australian FHIR Management Framework.

TDGs take the clinical and workflow needs outlined by the Clinical Design Group (CDG) and its sub-groups, and turn them into technically sound, workable guides – keeping in mind what's actually possible with current systems and tech.

Who's involved: There are a few different TDGs based on what they're focused on

- AU Core TDG – Works on designing, testing, and balloting the AU Core and AU Patient Summary FHIR Implementation Guides.
- AU Patient Summary Project – Established under the governance of the AU Core TDG, the Patient Summary Project zeros in on getting the AU Patient Summary IG built and ready for real-world use.
- AU eRequesting TDG – Designs, tests, and ballots the AU eRequesting FHIR IG.

In short, they're the folks making sure the tech side of things is solid and lines up with the clinical goals.



Sparked Technical Lead Danielle Tavares-Rixon at a recent TDG event

Medical imaging has been asking for this for many years. I feel this will make a huge difference to medical imaging both immediately and in the long run. ”

Stuart Hanson

Members

CDG Co-Leads

- **Dr Chris Moy:** GP and Australian Digital Health Agency Digital Health Advisor
- **Dr Charlotte Hespe:** GP and Australian Digital Health Agency Digital Health Advisor
- **Dr Chaturica Athukorala:** Aurabox
- **Harry Iles-Mann:** Health consumer advocate
- **Andrew Hugman:** Emergency Clinician and Clinical Director Digital Health Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

AU Core Co-Chairs:

- **Andrew Aubry:** Epic
- **Danielle Tavares-Rixon:** CSIRO and Sparked
- **Landon Reilly:** Best Practice
- **Marvin Malcolm:** Telstra Health
- **Ricardo Inacio:** Australian Digital Health Agency
- **Timothy Panoho:** Australian Digital Health Agency

AU eRequesting Co-Chairs:

- **Andy Bond:** Magentus
- **Angus Millar:** Sonic Healthcare
- **Christopher Skene:** Aurabox
- **Keith Kranz:** SA Pathology
- **Stuart Hanson:** Australian Digital Health Agency and RANZCR
- **Michael Wilson:** CSIRO and Sparked
- **Jai Dacey:** Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- **Megan Doherty:** Australian Digital Health Agency



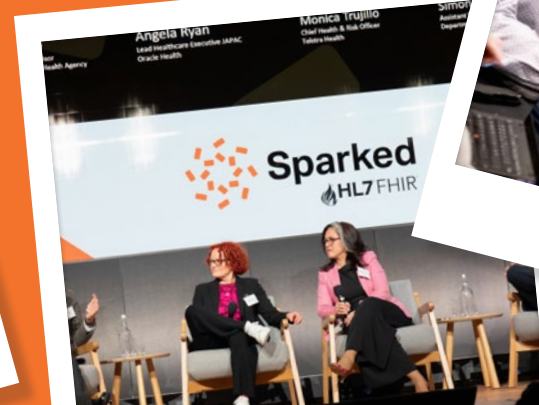
Sparked enables all health professionals irrelevant of professional background to contribute equally and are extremely transparent in providing reasons for prioritised areas of work.

Jackie O'Connor





tal
tisa
anager





Thank you to the energetic, welcoming and inspiring Sparked team, engaging presenters and motivated participants! An excellent event where I felt my contributions were genuinely valued and I learnt so much from the very learned technical experts ready to share!

”

Anna Semmler

Evaluation report summary

When CSIRO's AEHRC Health Implementation Science team were tasked with evaluating *Sparked*, they set out to answer a key question: **What program components and implementation conditions are essential for a FHIR accelerator to thrive?**

Using a robust mixed-methods approach – blending both qualitative insights and quantitative data – the evaluation delivered encouraging results. Highlights included strong engagement across the board, with most participants reporting no signs of change fatigue. Membership numbers and expert hours also showed a positive, steady growth over time, demonstrating a healthy and thriving community.

The findings offer real confidence that *Sparked* is not just meeting expectations but building a strong foundation for long-term success.

Sparked represents a unique opportunity to improve healthcare through AU Core Standards, fostering collaboration. It embodies a community dedicated to shared understanding.

Landon Reilly



Snapshot of Findings (Sparked Accelerator Interim Sentiment Survey)

Distribution timeframe: October 24th – December 2nd

Demographics

- 96 survey participants
- The majority of participants:
 - participated in CDG and/or TDG ($n = 77$, 86%)
 - have held membership for 6 months or more ($n = 70$, 79%)
 - lived in QLD, NSW or VIC

Engagement

- Most participants ($n = 49$, 70%) reported there was a moderate/high level of momentum in adopting FHIR standards in their organisation.
- The hands-on workshops identified as the most useful Sparked Accelerator activity.

Community of Practice (CoP)

- Most participants held a positive sentiment of the community and CoP activities.
- 86% ($n = 67$) engaged in CoP activities at least monthly.
- CoP activities were considered effective at facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange by 70% ($n = 54$) of participants.

Knowledge Management (KM) system

- Most participants held a positive sentiment of the KM system.
- 4 in 10 participants felt it was easy to find information using the system.
- 61%, ($n = 43$) of participants would recommend the KM system to others.

Participant recommendations for Sparked FHIR accelerator

- **CoP:** Improved orientation for new members, changes to the timing of sessions, further integration of diverse clinical and technical perspectives.
- **KM System:** Additional training in using the KM system, improving accessibility and navigation functionality of the system, increasing awareness amongst stakeholders.
- **Sparked Accelerator participation:** More time and funding, earlier notification of meeting times.
- **Adoption/Implementation of standards:** Investment from Government, software vendors, and organisation leadership, clear implementation timelines and a future focus.
- **Future use of knowledge/insights:** Alignment of software development to standards, advocate for stakeholder's uptake of interoperability standards.

Sparked Podcast



We launched Season 1 of the Sparked Podcast in November 2024. Whilst the news of Sparked had reached an inner sanctum of people already in the digital health standards community, we wanted a wider audience to know and learn about the impact of this work and get involved. Perhaps more than this, we also wanted to take some time to unfold some finer details about Sparked – a deeper dive – if you like, to prepare the community for what’s to come.

SPARKLE’S FUN FACTS

The Sparked logo was inspired by movement and connectivity. We chose to show movement as Sparked is the beginning of something new, moving forward toward better health standards. The strength of the logo lies in its subtle representation of Australia’s eight States and Territories, where rectangles converge to form a spark, celebrating diversity while showcasing the strength of unity.



Over 1,000 listeners of Season 1

And did we ever do that.

Our guests included a star-studded array of the who’s who of digital health in Australia – Grahame Grieve, Daniel McCabe, Sparked’s own Kate Ebrill, David Hansen and Elizabeth Koff.

And if you caught the six episodes of the podcast you surely would have walked away pretty geared up to join the community.

Good news there’s more to come. Season 2 is coming soon and is guaranteed to give more insights and more news about the Sparked programme and interoperability in Australia.



Sparked on the global stage

One of Sparked’s key goals has always been to keep working closely with international partners. Through leveraging and informing global standards, collaborating on and learning from similar efforts overseas, we can go further together, benefit from international relationships and expertise, and share our knowledge with the world.



Sparked team members supporting the Strengthening Standards Capability Programme funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Register your details to participate
in Sparked and begin contributing
to the future of Australian digital
health standards.

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