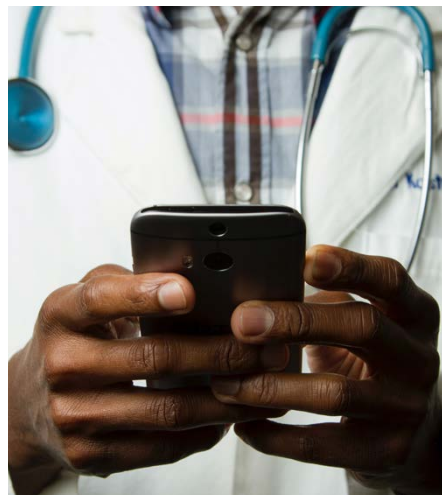


Policy Futures of Digital Health: A Human Rights Perspective

The road to improved health services has seen an unprecedented acceleration due to digital transformations in recent years. However, the rapid shift towards digital health has not been easy, and the benefits have not been uniformly distributed across all social groups. This, in addition to increasing concerns relating to individuals' privacy and personal data breaches, has led to many different stakeholders calling for a review and revision of the existing legal and policy framework. On 19 May 2022, the Centre for Policy Futures held the roundtable discussion webinar, Policy Futures of Digital Health: A Human Rights Perspective. The webinar brought experts in cyber security, digital health, and human rights together for a discussion on the role of policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to protect the rights of users and how we can bridge the 'digital divide' to ensure that everyone benefits from these new technologies and services.



Moderated by Dr Amelia Radke, the panel of speakers included:

Mr Sean Costello, Principal Lawyer, Queensland Human Rights Commission
Associate Professor Clair Sullivan, Lead of Queensland Digital Health Research Network
Professor Ryan Ko, Chair & Director of Cyber Security, The University of Queensland

Key Takeaways

- 1 Cultivating a holistic approach that promotes transdisciplinary collaboration across academia, industry, and the government will be an integral component of ensuring a human rights perspective on the policy futures of digital health.
- 2 We need to steer clear of reinventing the wheel regarding digital health policies and regulations, but rather build upon and adapt pre-existing frameworks.
- 3 Supporting an individual's right to access health care services requires recognising the importance of digital inclusion and digital literacy as fundamental to empowering diverse peoples' and communities' health outcomes. However, digital health technologies are not a panacea but one avenue to support positive health outcomes for all Australians.
- 4 The human rights of individuals may be limited when new digital services are the only service option, or when their availability is limited based on geographic location or other factors. In such cases, public entities must properly consider human rights to ensure accountability and in Queensland, compliance with the *Human Rights Act*. Any limitation on rights should be lawful, reasonable and proportionate, which will likely require a balancing of digital health's societal opportunities and risks.

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