

Media release

6 October 2010



Century milestone for Health IT Cluster

The New Zealand Health IT Cluster has reached a significant milestone with Freedom Health Technologies joining the group to become its one hundredth member.

“Reaching the one hundred member milestone demonstrates the value the Cluster brings to the sector and the benefits of industry collaboration,” Health IT Cluster chief executive Dougal McKechnie said today.

The Cluster is a vibrant alliance of organisations interested in health IT, comprising software and solution developers, consultants, health policy makers, health funders, infrastructure companies, healthcare providers, and academic institutions.

“The Cluster is not an industry lobby group in the traditional sense – we take a more cooperative and strategic approach by bringing together both private and public sector organisations with an interest in increasing the capability, innovation and investment in Health ICT,” Dougal McKechnie said.

“New Zealand is recognised as a centre of excellence for health technology world-wide, and we are ahead of the game in the areas of connecting health providers and improving information exchange between them.”

“We have an international reputation for fresh creative thinking and innovation. As technology is increasingly embraced we are able to improve the productivity of our health system and meet increasing patient demand for high quality, real-time information,” Dougal McKechnie said.

Freedom Health Technologies say the company is delighted to find they are the one hundredth member of the New Zealand Health IT Cluster.

“Freedom Health Technologies joined the NZ Health IT Cluster with the objective of being better informed and updated of new initiatives within the Health system in New Zealand. We see membership as an opportunity to engage with organisations that are looking for innovative, cost effective solutions to manage their patients who suffer from long-term conditions,” Freedom Health Technologies Clinical Consultant and Business Development Manager Lorelei Hickey said.

“Membership of the Cluster also provides us with an avenue to engage with other professionals in the Health IT sector and to share both technical and clinical

knowledge and experience in order to provide better health outcomes for the people of New Zealand.”

Freedom Health Technologies (FHT) was established in October 2009 as the assistive technologies arm of Healthcare of New Zealand to provide telehealth solutions as an enabler to manage chronic disease in the community, reducing the increasing demand and expenditure in the health sector. FHT is a joint venture business owned by Healthcare of New Zealand and Wellington Free Ambulance.

Orion Health, a foundation member of the New Zealand Health IT Cluster, says it is fantastic that the Health IT Cluster is developing strong relationships with key sector participants, including the National Health IT Board and other strategic partners. The Health IT Cluster provides a direct forum to promote engagement right across the Health ICT sector locally and internationally.

“The collaboration between local vendors and healthcare providers in the New Zealand market is a successful model for growing local businesses. This can lead to the creation of new jobs and eventually significant export growth and investment in New Zealand. Ultimately, this benefits all New Zealanders,” said Orion Health Sales Director, Wayne Oxenham said.

“Orion Health is an example of how ‘home grown innovation’ has lead to international success. As a founding and active member of the Health IT Cluster, Orion Health is in a strong position to provide support to other innovative New Zealand companies,” Dougal McKechnie said.

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