

Fraser Coast Managed Health Network



Overview

What is it?

A private network providing bank grade security that would connect general practices, hospitals, divisions of general practice, specialist practices, radiology, pathology, medical centres, allied health services, GP homes, senior medical staff homes, specialist homes, retirement villages, potentially pharmacies and other health sites in the Fraser Coast region.

This would be an exclusive, health community managed network providing for the secure transfer of authorised confidential health information between connected sites as well as providing health related applications, voice, video and Internet services.

Establishment of the network falls within the guidelines for funding under the Department of Health and Ageing "Managed Health Networks" grants and the services and indicative costs proposed in this document would be conditional upon such funding.

What are the expected benefits?

A health private network has a significant potential to impact on improving health outcomes in the Fraser Coast region as well as reducing service costs and telecommunications costs, and would provide a foundation for a range of services and applications that would benefit the health community. The key services under consideration are; secure access for authorised providers to patient clinical data, electronic admission and discharge summaries and a video conferencing network connecting Fraser Coast Managed Health Network sites to public and private hospitals in Brisbane and elsewhere.

How will it work?

The Fraser Coast Managed Health Network will replace existing telecommunications services (telephone lines and broadband Internet services) providing an economic foundation for the service that will be commercially competitive.

The cost for establishment and implementation of the Health Network to foundation members would be covered by government grant funds.

It is proposed that the long-term commercial sustainability of the network be built in on day one and that it will be supported by a reappropriation of existing costs. That is the net cost to practices will be close to or equivalent to the existing data and telecommunications costs but with many more services.

Those wishing to join the network later will bear the cost of connection at then current commercial rates.

What are the technical attributes of the Health Network?

The Health Network will be built on the Wideline fibre optic core network.

Wideline is a licensed telecommunications carrier and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hervey Bay City Council. Typical connection speeds will be 2Mbps or greater.

The network relies on technology from Cisco Systems and will deliver the highest standards in security and performance for voice, data and video applications.

The Health Network will be implemented and supported day to day by IP Systems, the company who provides a similar network for GoldHealth, based in Kalgoorlie WA.



wide bay division of general practice



Fraser Coast
Communication Network



Overview

Benefits from a Fraser Coast health private network.

To the general practitioner:

- Access to patient records remotely
- Better communication between Hospitals & GPs
- Better communication between the State and Federal health support services and health practitioners
- Backup of Practice Systems providing disaster recovery
- GP retention and recruitment of GPs in regional areas by providing access to communications for:
 - Continuing professional development
 - Family and personal support
 - Improved peer support
 - Specialist and medical support
- Improved productivity & cost savings

To the wider health community:

- Online Education
- Online Therapeutic Guidelines, Resources and Information Services
- Clinical Applications (eg tele-radiology, and tele-dermatology)
- Electronic Discharge Summaries
- Post operative infection tracking
- Potential for better supervision of junior medical staff
- Electronic transfer of patient medication information from GPs to hospitals upon admission
- Electronic Health Records (eg HealthConnect)
- Improved productivity & cost savings

Future potential services

- Medical Imaging Repository
- Clinical Decision Support Systems
- Population-based Health Studies

What Health Network services are envisaged?

- Connectivity to the private “Fraser Coast Managed Health Network”
 - High-speed secure network access
 - High-speed Internet access with firewall
- eHealth applications such as;
 - Secure access for authorised providers to patient clinical data
 - Electronic admissions and discharges
- Video conferencing (The video conferencing equipment would be provided as part of the network implementation)
 - Video conferencing between Fraser Coast Managed Health Network members
 - Affordable video conferencing to Qld Health sites
 - Affordable video conferencing to Brisbane private hospitals
 - Advanced video conferencing events and training rooms
- Telephone
 - Uncharged telephone calls between Fraser Coast Managed Health Network members
 - Uncharged telephone calls to other Widelinx network members
 - Un-timed local call charges to Brisbane telephone numbers
 - Telephone lines
 - Competitive telephone call rates

Further information

For more information contact:

Widelinx
3/166 Boat Harbour Drive
Pialba, Queensland 4655

T: 1300 009 433
F: 1300 885 197

info@widelinx.com.au
www.widelinx.com.au

Fraser Coast Managed Health Network

Participation Survey

I am interested in participating in the Fraser Coast Managed Health Network. Yes No

Personal Details

Required only if you are interested in having your home connected to the network, as well as your practice.

Title
First Name
Last Name
Telephone
Email
Home Address
Suburb
State
Postcode

Practice Details

Practice Name
Practice Type
Practice Address
Suburb
State
Postcode
Telephone
Fax
Email

Technical Details

Current no. of phone lines
Current no. of workstations (GPs, Reception, Nurses etc.)
Name of IT support company or staff (if applicable)
Name of practice manager and principle (if applicable)

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Signature

Signed
Date

Thank you for your time. You can return this survey to Widelinx by either post or fax.

