

## First living database of digital health companies launched in Australia

*Digital health ecosystem mapping will improve the productivity, competitiveness and innovative capacity of Australia's medtech, biotech and pharmaceutical sector*

**Thursday, 26 October 2017 - Melbourne, Australia:** Funding for Australia's first living database of health innovations across digital health, medtech and pharmaceuticals has today been announced. The project will catalogue and track the progress of health innovations under development in Australia and make the information accessible to all on a public online platform.

The project consortium is led by Canberra-based start-up Health Horizon. Industry members of the consortium include ANDHealth (Australia's only national mid-stage digital health integrator and accelerator), hospital and health services intellectual property management company Hospital and Health Services IP Ltd and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia. National organisations like Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA), Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) and Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA) are also consortium members. The academic consortium members include the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health and influential health innovation groups from QUT and the University of Newcastle.

**Bronwyn Le Grice managing director, ANDHealth, said:** "We are delighted to have partnered with Health Horizon on this Initiative. Digital Health is a sector which is growing at a pace that means that traditional directories are often out of date before they are published. By harnessing machine learning and AI, the Health Horizon ecosystem mapping initiative will provide a living database of health innovations creating a foundation for increasing collaboration, partnering and investment both domestically and with international partners."

The project will identify, catalogue and track in real time health innovations under development in Australia. Open to investors, health practitioners and the public, it will be a place for anyone to make sense of, and support, the diverse and rapidly evolving health innovation ecosystem. This showcase is designed to open up new avenues for private and public stakeholders to connect with and support innovations nationwide, while improving the coordination, collaboration and transparency of the entire sector.

**Marcus Dawe, CEO of Health Horizon, said:** "We often get glimpses about incredible advances in health on the news, but too often never hear about them again." said. "This project will make the progress of health innovations under development in Australia easily searchable and trackable, changing how Australians interact with what's coming in health."

ANDHealth, Australia's first industry led, national accelerator for digital health technologies recently announced the first cohort of six companies that it will begin working with.

ANDHealth's unique model, led by a consortium of industry leaders with proven track records in commercialising digital health technologies in global markets, and supported by Australian Industry Growth Centre, MTPConnect, is focused on mid-stage technologies which will benefit from support and assistance in clinical and commercial validation to enhance their ability to penetrate global markets and/or raise significant growth capital.

“There are many early stage accelerators in Australia that provide support for ideas and concepts behind innovative new companies. ANDHealth is different in that it brings a tailored support and advisory package for companies that already have a product, drawing on the deep knowledge and expertise of Australia’s own industry leaders who know what it takes to take a product from Australia to the world,” said Le Grice.

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**National MTPD Showcase**

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**About ANDHealth**

ANDHealth is a national digital health initiative established by a consortium of commercial and government partners to facilitate and support the development & commercialisation of clinically validated digital health technologies across Australia. ANDHealth focuses on supporting mid-stage digital health projects with proof of concept and pivotal clinical validation, investment readiness and market entry - with a specific focus on regulated digital health technologies which have a clear impact on clinical outcomes for patients.

ANDHealth is partially funded by MTPConnect – established as part of the Australian Government Industry Growth Centre initiative, aiming to accelerate the rate of growth of the medical technologies, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals sector to achieve greater commercialisation and establish Australia as an Asia-Pacific hub for MTP companies. Industry consortium members include Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Planet Innovation, Curve Tomorrow, GP2U Telehealth, HealthXL, Murdoch Childrens' Research Institute, RMIT University.

