Australian telehealth at the crossroads

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Seminar Room 30.2.07
Building 30, Campbelltown Campus

Abstract:
Australia’s large distances and high standard of healthcare have made it a natural location for pioneering the delivery of healthcare over a distance, and organisations such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service have indeed been doing this since the 1920s. However, telehealth implementations have been mostly fragmented and uncoordinated. Despite the obvious benefits, there has not been a satisfactory funding model, and the telecommunications infrastructure has been unsuitable of unavailable for telehealth. This is now rapidly changing; the personal communications revolution is beginning to impact on healthcare, the National Broadband Network will create a ubiquitous infrastructure, and Medicare Benefits for telehealth are creating new models of care. Previous work undertaken by CSIRO scientists has shown how telehealth can take advantage of advanced networks for healthcare delivery, and a current study is revealing visions for future telehealth applications.

Laurie Wilson is currently a Post Retirement Fellow at the CSIRO ICTCentre. Initially qualified with a PhD in Cosmic Ray Physics, he has over 30 years experience working at the interface of medicine and technology, especially in medical ultrasound, knowledge based image analysis, home-based systems, human factors and most recently broad band telehealth. In 2008 he set up the Australasian Telehealth Society and is currently its Honorary Secretary.

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