

SPIA Survey 2018 Summary

The PITUS 18-20 Project in conjunction with the RCPAQAP KIMMS Program developed an online survey of 21 questions to gauge the current level of awareness and implementation of the Standards for Pathology Informatics in Australia (SPIA) as endorsed by the RCPA within accredited Australian pathology laboratories. The survey was distributed to 155 prospective participants representing over 95% of public, private and catholic accredited pathology accredited pathology laboratory groups throughout Australia. The survey was open for four weeks, closing on 14 December 2018 with a total of 57 responses received. Key Survey response rates are listed below:

- The estimated overall Survey response rate was 55.7% - this takes into account instances where the campaign email was sent to multiple individuals within the same laboratory (e.g. NSW Health Pathology, Sonic Healthcare group, etc), and Survey responses received from a single respondent on behalf of multiple laboratories utilising the same Laboratory Information System (LIS).
- The Survey allowed for anonymity; Seven anonymous respondents participated.
- Of the 16 public pathology laboratory groups contacted, 10 laboratory groups responded, representing a 55.6% response rate for all Australian public laboratories. [Post Survey, the Project established two laboratories did not receive the survey].
- Of the 42 private pathology laboratories/laboratory groups (including catholic) contacted, 16 laboratory groups responded (37 respondents in total), representing a 38.1% response rate.
- Public and Private sector responses were received for all states.
- 50 of the 57 respondents (88%) completed all or part of the survey.
- 47% of participants responded to the technical questions.
- 22 of the 37 (59%) private respondents did not answer any technical questions compared with 6 of 20 (30%) of public respondents.

The Survey consisted of a mix of demographic and technical questions, and from the responses the Project was able to gauge a number of large and small private and public-sector pathology laboratories have adopted SPIA and are currently implementing SPIA. Over the next 24 months, the Project will focus on the following three key Project activities in direct response to the Survey results and opinions expressed:

- To increase levels of SPIA awareness, the Project will engage with a range of key stakeholders in the public, private and catholic pathology community and members of the Medical Software Industry of Australia (MSIA), HL7 Australia and RACGP;
- To improve SPIA compliance, the Project will seek opportunities for SPIA advocacy via the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) and/or via NATA/RCPA accreditors;
- To promulgate the benefits of interoperability, the Project will seek to engage with stakeholders who indicated they had no plans to adopt any of the SPIA standards, as well as collaborate with SPIA champions to assist with promotion of the benefits.

A subsequent Survey will be undertaken toward the end of 2020 to determine if the levels of SPIA adoption have increased, decreased or remained unchanged during the PITUS 18-20 Project. To improve future survey response rates, the Project will continue to update the survey contact list developed and continue to liaise with NATA to obtain the most current information of accredited Australian pathology laboratories.