

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present the ‘Developing an E-Health Strategy’ workbook. This has been developed in recognition of the immense value that new technologies can bring to health access, the training of health personnel and the strengthening of management information systems.

The Health Section of the Social Transformation Programmes Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat was mandated by Commonwealth Health Ministers in 2008 to assist member countries in strengthening their health systems through the use of information and communication technology (ICT). Since that time, we have undertaken research, policy dialogues, explored public-private partnerships and implemented e-health pilot projects to enhance the use of ICT in the health systems of our member countries.

This workbook addresses requests made by member countries for a practical guide to developing and implementing e-health strategies. The methodologies and models offered within the workbook meet this request, offering examples from countries to enable the sharing of best practice and cover the essential topics of leadership, affordability and a step-by-step guide to policy development.

I am confident that this workbook will prove to be a useful tool in your own country’s progression towards developing or strengthening its own e-health strategy. The Commonwealth Secretariat remains committed to promoting e-health not as a stand-alone programme, but as support to the ongoing efforts within member countries.

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To download the methodology and templates, visit the links at the Commonwealth Secretariat's website at: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/ehealth>. The file is in Microsoft Word so users can modify the tables to match their specific needs.

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