Nursing Informatics Australia
coming of age: The wisdom years

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1991

- No global internet
  The first website built was at CERN, and was first put online on 6 August 1991. Info.cern.ch
- Economic prosperity
- Professional healthcare boom
First NIA Conference

“Use of a national/international telecommunications network for distance learning in an adult environment.”
2012

- Global information access
- Political change using social media
- Reduction in government healthcare costs paramount
- Population demand for treatment(s)
- Change in healthcare provider status
- Massive computing activities
Where is the life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

T. S. Elliott, The Rock, 1934
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Kachink
KKKSH

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Mechanisation
‘Accountable practitioners must be more than passive recipients of information. They will need to acquire the analytical skills to ask the right questions, to know where to seek answers to them, and to reach informed decisions on the basis of the fullest knowledge available.’

Anne Poole, UK Chief Nursing Officer, (1989)
‘The choice is there and the time to make the choice is now. The decision must be whether to act traditionally and have change thrust upon the profession [nursing] from the outside or to anticipate this revolution in nursing practice, familiarise nurses with it, and prepare them to take an active part in the introduction of computers into the nursing community.’

Development of ‘workarounds’

"Psst - want a map?"
Ineffectiveness to Wisdom

**Wisdom** is an ideal that has been celebrated since antiquity as the knowledge needed to live a good life. In general, scholars have emphasized various combinations of the following: **knowledge**, **understanding**, **experience**, discretion, and intuitive understanding, along with a capacity to apply these qualities well towards finding solutions to problems.
Ineffectiveness to Wisdom

H&SCP = Health and Social Care Provider/Practitioner
Inappropriate Use(s)

“Perhaps, Dr. Pavlov, he could be taught to seal envelopes.”
The healthcare professional/patient relationship

![Graph showing the relationship between professional care and patient care over time.](Image)
Interoperability
"My generation will be running the world soon. If we say $4+4=9$ then that's the way it's going to be!"
So, why is this important?

The world is changing...
Emerging Technologies
Genetic Engineering
Emerging Technologies
Hibernation or Suspended Animation
Emerging Technologies
Radio Frequency Identification
Emerging Technologies
Nanotechnologies
Understanding the next generation....

You Tube
"In an increasingly complex world, sometimes old questions require new answers."
Biotechnology

Biotechnology advances are increasing life expectancy to new heights.

It is estimated that by the year 2050 people born in that year will expect to reach the age in excess of 150 years. By 2300 people born in that century are likely to see the next millennium.

What age does schooling stop? When will retirement be? Will life-long learning be possible? How will healthcare be prioritised?
Pandemic

The greatest pandemic facing the world is the widespread demographic changes, it is estimated that in 50 years time the percentage of those in retirement will be over 50% of the population in most western countries. It is also estimated that by 2050 there will be some 15% of population as minors, leaving only 35% of working age. Healthcare will have to cope with these changes especially with the increase of older people receiving acute and active care.

Are we already preparing for this, extending retirement age to 70 or 75; or considering euthanasia?
Challenge

The challenge in healthcare will be to continue under the pressure of expectations of care by the public. The more information individuals can get the more information they are likely to use to support their demand for treatment. In both public health services and those provided within a framework of private care there are serious concerns that the provision cannot cope with the expected onslaught.

Are we preparing front-line staff with the skills necessary to 'defuse' the potential anger and frustration?
Hunger for Information

The hunger requires of us to prepare the next generation of health and social care providers with the ability to be information 'wise' in order that we do not become greedy or overly choosy, but rather we remain balanced and in control of information for the benefit of patient care.
‘Power is control, influence or the ability to do or act. Power is the ability to make decisions and power is determining what those decisions will be in the first place.

Power is having control of information.’

Gaston, (1991)
NIA 2012 ... Education Leadership Wisdom
One last thought...

The only way to predict the future is to invent it.
Thank You

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