

# Understanding Cancer, Changing Lives



“Achieving the highest levels of accuracy in matching a new test result against the existing database is critical...the aim is to save lives by helping to ensure that women with cervical abnormalities receive timely follow-up care.”

**David Schanzer**, Senior Systems Analyst, New South Wales, Australia Cancer Council

## NSW Cancer Council – Connecting People and Organizations to Make the Vision of Defeating Cancer a Reality

Located on the east coast of Australia, New South Wales (NSW) is home to over one third of the country’s population. Each day 100 new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in this region. Although not directly involved in cancer research, the not-for-profit NSW Cancer Council has funded and supported numerous studies to deepen understanding of cancer and help eradicate the disease. The organization runs cancer awareness and prevention campaigns, counsels victims and their families, and offers services and programs enabling patients, caregivers and families access to appropriate resources at every phase.

Since 1996, the NSW Pap Test Register has maintained records of women’s Pap checks and the related follow-up tests and results. The Council uses register data to automatically generate and track appointment requests and

follow-up reminders. A full 99 percent of tested women consent to have their details submitted. David Schanzer, senior systems analyst at the Council, states, “Its aim is to save lives by increasing the number of women having regular Pap tests and helping to ensure that women with cervical abnormalities receive timely follow-up care.”

## Unleashing Information Potential

The NSW has operated the Pap Test Register as part a comprehensive database strategy for storing data amassed through community and patient interactions, as well as information generated through Council-funded trials and clinical studies. Success of the Pap Test Register depends heavily on the ability to consolidate information coming from multiple sources to create a single, unified record for each patient. Details of tests from all of the state’s 54 pathology laboratories are linked with previous analyses to identify changes and possible anomalies in a patient’s circumstances. Valid comparisons are



### Overview

By using record-matching capabilities to ensure womens’ health records are accurate and complete, this Australian non-profit has helped one million NSW women receive regular Pap tests, while processing information on more than 50,000 Pap tests every month, and helping to ensure that women with cervical abnormalities receive timely follow-up care.

### Business Initiatives

- Increase the number of regular Pap tests performed by tracking frequency of tests and automatically generating appointment reminders when needed
- Ensure that women with cervical abnormalities receive timely follow-up care

### Technology Strategy

- Augment database of healthcare records with identity data search-and- match capabilities which accurately tie incoming healthcare data to existing patient records

### Inside the Solution

- Informatica® Identity Resolution™

critical, so it is imperative to achieve a match between a newly submitted test and previous results.

Linking back to existing information is successful for most cases. But, there is also a meaningful percentage where a straightforward match cannot be readily found. The absence of an immediate match, where corresponding fields fail to indicate a 100 percent tie to an existing patient record, can occur for a number of reasons: change of address, name change due to marriage, or even an inadvertent spelling mistake. NSW has put in place a solution specifically designed to search and match personal information located in large data repositories with exceptional accuracy and speed. Using common data elements such as first/last name, date of birth, known prior addresses, ethnicity, in conjunction with more complex constructs, like popular name contractions and distinctive test result characteristics, a deeper degree of matching is achieved.

## Results

Prior to implementing the register, there was a much higher probability that a person's health record did not contain results from every test they had submitted. The database, which now accurately identifies patient records as part of this lifesaving program, has helped one million NSW women receive regular Pap tests. Furthermore, the Cancer Council itself receives and processes information on more than 50,000 Pap tests every month, and helps ensure that women with cervical abnormalities receive timely follow-up care.

## The Role of Informatica

The Pap Test Register relies on Informatica® Identity Resolution™ for its record matching capabilities.

Informatica Identity Resolution uses an enhanced “fuzzy logic” approach to decipher phonetic spellings, missing or out-of-order words, and other data errors and discrepancies that can frequently occur. The ability to integrate known cultural variations and language rules allows the Council to dramatically optimize match accuracy for its diverse population. “Achieving the highest levels of accuracy in matching a new test result against the existing database is critical. Given the highly variable quality of the data the register receives from its 54 pathology laboratories, the quality of matches detected by our technology is impressive,” reflects Schanzer.



Digital transformation is changing our world. As the leader in enterprise cloud data management, we're prepared to help you intelligently lead the way. To provide you with the foresight to become more agile, realize new growth opportunities or even invent new things. We invite you to explore all that Informatica has to offer—and unleash the power of data to drive your next intelligent disruption. Not just once, but again and again.

Worldwide Headquarters, 2100 Seaport Blvd, Redwood City, CA 94063, USA Phone: 650.385.5000 Fax: 650.385.5500 Toll-free in the US: 1.800.653.3871  
informatica.com linkedin.com/company/informatica twitter.com/Informatica

© Copyright Informatica LLC 2018. Informatica, the Informatica logo, and PowerCenter are trademarks or registered trademarks of Informatica LLC in the United States and many jurisdictions throughout the world. A current list of Informatica trademarks is available on the web at <https://www.informatica.com/trademarks.html>. Other company and product names may be trade names or trademarks of their respective owners. The information in this documentation is subject to change without notice and provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind, express or implied.