# MEDIA RELEASE

# New cyber-secure digital health consent solution – eConsent for Genomics - protects Australian's digital identities

**Australian digital privacy company, Haventec, is developing a new and innovative digital health consent solution – eConsent for Genomics - which will allow healthcare providers, service providers and patients to securely store and consent to share personal health information.**

In response to recent cyber security breaches in Australia, the **eConsent for Genomics** solution allows individuals to store and share their genomics data and prevent it from being stolen and misused. The solution will be built on Haventec's patented privacy platforms (Authenticate and Sanctum) which ensures digital identities and sensitive data are always protected.

This innovative capability comes at a critical time for the cyber industry as current models for storing personal health information are consistently failing with the health sector regularly topping the list of notifiable data breaches (as identified by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner).  In addition, there is a global push for openness, an acceleration in the introduction of electronic health records and an increased regulatory focus on privacy and consent within the sector.

Partnering with 23Strands, a health technology company, **eConsent for Genomics** will also assist in a research project focused on COVID19 patients.  The research aims to correlate negative and positive health outcomes to specific DNA profiles with the ability to better predict an individual's potential outcome should they become infected with COVID-19.

**eConsent for Genomics** is a 12-month project that has funding from AustCyber, a non-profit organisation that is charged with growing a local cybersecurity ecosystem and facilitating its global expansion.  The AustCyber Projects Fund is an AU$15 million, three-year Federal Government initiative designed to help the Australian cybersecurity industry grow both locally and globally.

AustCyber's CEO, Michelle Price, said Australia's economy is now digitally geared and it's important we have digital trust in the eHealth systems we use, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"[AustCyber's Digital Trust Report 2020](#) identified the rapid digitisation of the eHealth sector as both a risk and opportunity for Australia's cyber security ecosystem. It is important to support Australian cyber security companies through the Projects Fund program to create innovative cyber secure products that benefits all Australian's and ensures that our personal data is kept secure.

"This project is especially critical for the healthcare industry which has been forced to undergo rapid digital transformation due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Haventec CEO, Dave Maunsell, said that **eConsent for Genomics** will provide individuals with more control over how their personal health data is used and shared, without compromising their right to privacy.

"In simple terms, Haventec's platform reduces the exposure to risk. We have solved the paradox of keeping sensitive data safe, while supporting increasing demands, and consumer expectations, for openness, connectivity, performance and privacy.

"Data and identity are the key foundations for trust across the connected health ecosystem. Our digital consent offering is relevant to any health and wellbeing enterprise and their customers who have a need to confidently and securely store and share personal, sensitive and regulated health information."

Mark Grosser, CEO of 23Strands said the digital transformation of the health sector is unprecedented and organisations are now dependent on digital patient engagement.

"An e-consent platform like this will benefit the entire industry and will make individual patients' lives easier. This is nowhere more evident than in patients and families going through COVID-19, with carers no longer even able to visit their sick family in ICU wards. We are collaborating with Haventec to ensure seamless and secure communication and consent can be delivered to all stakeholders at every level of care.

"The information managed in this pilot platform includes; patient personal information, patient consent instructions, patient medical analysis, diagnostics and test reports. We provide genome analysis of DNA and our platform correlates outcomes for patients based on medical, clinical and genetics analysis. This new and exciting project with Haventec will be linked to our service as a core platform for us to manage the storage and sharing of the genetic analysis reports we create for patients."

**ENDS**

**Haventec**  - helps organisations build trust by maintaining their customers' privacy in every interaction. The Sydney-based company aims to disrupt the global cyber security market with a decentralised approach to authentication.  Haventec's internationally patented technologies dramatically reduce cyber risk and enable pervasive trust services for organisations of all sizes. Haventec's solutions empower each user to own and control their identity and personal data, while removing vulnerabilities that organisations spend millions trying to protect.  Haventec's security products serve the following markets: digital banking,

market exchange, payment platforms, blockchain & ICOs. Haventec's portfolio of products includes Authenticate, Sanctum.

**23Strands** - is a wholly owned, early stage Australian company focused on delivering truly personalised healthcare. 23Strands' team utilises Artificial Intelligence to unlock patients' whole Genome Sequencing, combined with medical records, a full library of scientific publication and other diagnostic pathology and imaging to provide a more accurate pathway to improve patient outcomes.  23Strands' goal is to empower every medical practitioner in the world with this unique and powerful diagnostic tool.

**AustCyber -** AustCyber's mission is to grow a vibrant and globally competitive cyber security sector that enhances Australia's future economic growth. As part of this mission, it aims to be an independent national body to better align disparate cyber security initiatives and investments across industry, the research community, academia, and government. AustCyber is part of the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative, which aims to tap new sources of economic growth by maximising Australia's competitive advantage in six knowledge-driven, high-value sectors.

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