An ePortfolio for every Australian/New Zealand citizen: An exploration

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Abstract:
ePortfolios are closely linked to lifelong learning. 'Lifelong' by definition takes the individual from birth to death and through a multitude of phases and learning situations. Today, access to ePortfolios systems occurs mainly via educational institutions. This supports individuals only in relatively short phases in their lives and does not consider workplace and personal learning. Further, support for lifelong learning should be accessible to everyone, especially individuals outside the formal education system and employment.

The question arises if there should be 'national' or 'state' ePortfolio provision that would give access to every citizen to accompany these in the real sense of 'lifelong'. In this discussion we want to explore the issues around such ePortfolio provision and determine if there is common ground for moving forward towards such provision. We will review what is happening in Europe following the challenge of 'An ePortfolio for Every European Citizen by 2010' and will in particular look at the regional ePortfolio initiative. National or state ePortfolio provision would raise many issues of social, ethical, cultural, economic or technical nature. We will highlight some of these issues to prepare discussion among the participants.