

FECCA welcomes extension to health record opt out period

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today welcomed a Government decision to extend the 'opt out' period for the My Health Record system to 15 November 2018.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos said: "This extension of the opt out period allows the Government time to legislate so that health records cannot be released without a court order and so that people who opt out will have their health data permanently deleted.

"The one-month extension of the opt out period also gives everybody more time to make an informed choice about the My Health Record system."

Ms Patetsos said that FECCA has partnered with the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) to provide information for members and stakeholders about the My Health Record Expansion Program.

The partnership aims to provide information about My Health Record and its benefits for all Australians, and to advise those who choose not to have one how to opt out.

By the end of 2018, the Agency will have a digitised My Health Record for all Australians, except for those who opt out.

Doctors, pharmacists and authorised healthcare providers will be able to access a person's My Health Record to assist in their treatment of patients and issues such as prescription of medicines and advance care planning.

FECCA will communicate the benefits of My Health Record through its member organisations. These benefits include reduced hospital admissions, reduced duplication of tests, better-coordinated care, and better informed treatment decisions.

"The My Health Record has many benefits for CALD consumers, particularly those who are older or who have lower levels of English proficiency. The My Health Record will support communication between CALD consumers and their health provider, leading to better outcomes.

"It is also important that CALD consumers are comfortable engaging with the tool – and know how to opt out if they wish," Ms Patetsos said.

For further information on My Health Record go to www.myhealthrecord.gov.au.

For further information on My Health Record in other languages go to <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/howtos/information-in-your-language>.

To opt out of the My Health Record go to <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/opt-out-my-health-record>.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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