

FECCA welcomes security changes to My Health Record

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has welcomed a Government decision to strengthen the security of personal medical records in the My Health Record system.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos said: "We are pleased that the Minister will legislate that no health records can be released to anybody without a court order.

"And people who choose to opt out and cancel their My Health Record have now been assured that their health data will also be permanently deleted.

"FECCA congratulates the Minister for Health for listening to the real concerns of all Australians, including those of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds."

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.

"FECCA is pleased to work with the ADHA to ensure that culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians are empowered to make an informed decision about the My Health Record," Ms Patetsos said.

"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.

People who choose not to have a My Health Record will be able to register not to have one during a three-month opt-out period occurring between **16 July and 15 October**.

The Government has indicated that it may extend the opt-out period for a further month.

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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