

14th September 2018

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs References Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Jeanette Radcliffe,

Inquiry into the My Health Record system

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) has long supported, and will continue to support, the development of a safe, quality, national e-health record as part of an effective healthcare system.

Primary health care nurses can play a key role in understanding the principles and value of the My Health Record, assisting access, as well as cleaning and uploading data to the shared health record.

APNA believes that e-health records are an essential tool to facilitate safe and accurate health care stewardship for consumers and clinicians and therefore supports the opt-out approach. We have been receiving positive feedback from our members who are already using the My Health record system to assist particularly complex patients to map their care needs and share information with patients and other patient authorised care partners. This sharing can enhance patient safety, reduce overlap, over testing, duplication of services and provide a more holistic view of the patient condition and care provided. Enabling patient access to their health information facilitates greater control over their health and care decisions. APNA is happy to work with the Digital Health Agency to promote patient safety and enhance uptake of the My Health Record.

The My Health Record system needs to be safe, secure, standardised, interoperable, meaningful and user-friendly. APNA supports the legislative changes to the My Health Record to strengthen privacy provisions under the My Health Record Act and its commitment to address consumer privacy concerns. We also support the Consumer Health Forum of Australia's position statement on stronger protection for patient records.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Darren Carr'.

Darren Carr
Chief Executive Officer

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Booth'.

Karen Booth
President



About APNA

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) is the peak professional body for nurses working in primary health care. APNA champions the role of primary health care nurses; to advance professional recognition, ensure workforce sustainability, nurture leadership in health, and optimise the role of nurses in patient-centred care.

APNA is bold, vibrant and future-focused. We reflect the views of our membership and the broader profession by bringing together nurses from across Australia to represent, advocate, promote and celebrate the achievements of nurses in primary health care.

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