



Media release

5 June 2019
(updated 15 July 2019)

9 out of 10 general practices signed up to My Health Record

General practices are leading the charge in signing up to My Health Record, according to new data released by the Australian Digital Health Agency.

In April 2018, 82% of general practices were connected to My Health Record, which tipped over to 92% in April 2019. General practitioners are also viewing and using My Health Record more often. In the 12 months to April 2019, there was a:

- 13% increase in the number of shared health summaries uploaded by GP organisations.
- 52% increase in the number of prescription records uploaded by GP organisations.
- 60% increase in the views of clinical documents by GP organisations.

Jurisdiction	% of general practices connected to My Health Record	
	April 2018	April 2019
New South Wales	82%	92%
Victoria	79%	87%
Queensland	91%	100%
South Australia	88%	95%
Western Australia	89%	98%
Tasmania	73%	77%
Australian Capital Territory	79%	85%
Northern Territory	74%	78%

“General practice has led the health system in being computerised. They have been of benefit in making the care of our patients better and easier in improving information access and automating simple processes like prescription writing,” says Adelaide-based general practitioner and Chair of the AMA Federal Ethics Committee, Dr Chris Moy.

“My Health Record now offers us the next big leap in the use of the computers on our desktops. Once GPs have that “light-bulb” moment when they realise, for the first time, that they can access information such as pathology results and hospital discharge letters, they will realise that they will be able to make better informed decisions about patient care in the future.”

Unpredictability is one of the biggest challenges for people and carers managing chronic and complex illnesses. Often, even small changes in the level of specific minerals like iron or magnesium can be the difference between an ordinary day and, if not managed quickly, a trip to emergency.

Harry Iles-Mann, a 24-year-old health consumer knows this all too well. He has suffered multiple complex chronic physical and mental health issues including ulcerative colitis and liver disease since the age of three.

“The majority of day-to-day decisions I make about how to manage my health are based on a combination of my own 21 years of experience and the results of my blood tests, which helps paint a picture of what my health is like below the surface,” Harry says.



“I’ve gone through many periods of time where I’ve been magnesium or iron deficient, which has required me to take supplements and have infusions to boost those levels back up. Without reliable up-to-date information on my blood pathology, it would be easy to miss the warning signs and my health can deteriorate rapidly to the point that I have to make a trip to emergency.”

“It can be easy to lose track of your medicines, scans and blood test results, particularly if you don’t have a regular GP,” says Agency Chief Medical Adviser, Clinical Professor Meredith Makeham.

“My Health Record ensures that no matter where you are, or who you see, your important health information is available in one place. This visibility helps us, as healthcare professions, make more informed decisions about the care we provide you.”

The Agency is working with healthcare provider organisations across the country to connect healthcare professionals to the My Health Record system and improve the information available to consumers who have decided to use My Health Record.

Further information on how to register to connect to the My Health Record system is available on the [My Health Record website](#).

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About the Australian Digital Health Agency

The Agency is tasked with improving health outcomes for all Australians through the delivery of digital healthcare systems, and implementing [Australia’s National Digital Health Strategy](#) – *Safe, Seamless, and Secure: evolving health and care to meet the needs of modern Australia* in collaboration with partners across the community. The Agency is the System Operator of [My Health Record](#), and provides leadership, coordination, and delivery of a collaborative and innovative approach to utilising technology to support and enhance a clinically safe and connected national health system. These improvements will give individuals more control of their health and their health information, and support healthcare providers to deliver informed healthcare through access to current clinical and treatment information. Further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au.