



Media release

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## **My Health Record increases pathology and diagnostic imaging connections with Victorian and Queensland services**

Pathology and diagnostic imaging services such as blood tests, x-rays, ultrasounds, and MRIs help healthcare providers make diagnoses and monitor their patients' progress. An increasing number of healthcare providers and their patients are now benefiting from convenient, safe, and secure access to these reports via My Health Record where they may not have access to these reports before.

Today, the Australian Digital Health Agency announced new My Health Record system connections by Victorian Cytology Service (VCS) Pathology, and Queensland based Mater Pathology, Mater Medical Imaging, and Paradise Ultrasound.

VCS Pathology Executive Director Professor Marion Saville said the company has over 50 years of experience serving Australia's population, providing large-scale services and solutions supporting public health programs.

"VCS has built and now operates national register platforms and services in Australia and abroad to support major screening and immunisation programs, as well as operating a large pathology laboratory. The company understands the importance of providing secure and reliable access to quality information via an electronic health record.

"I am proud of the VCS Digital Team who were able to successfully complete the project to connect to the My Health Record ahead of schedule, with VCS Pathology being the first Victorian laboratory to achieve this outcome," Professor Saville said.

More than 5.9 million Australians have a My Health Record, which contains a summary of key health information such as shared health summaries, discharge summaries, prescription and dispense records. My Health Record allows Australians to share secure health information including test results with authorised health care providers at the point of care.

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) President Dr Simon Judkins said providing quality care in a modern health system relies on accessible and accurate clinical and patient information.

"My Health Record offers the potential to improve the interaction of patients and physicians, the quality of patient care, as well as improving efficiency of health care delivery," Mr Judkins said.

Agency CEO Tim Kelsey said that all pathology labs and diagnostic imaging practices in Australia are being encouraged to connect to My Health Record because these services support improved health benefits and provide increased clinical usefulness within the system.

"More than 100 pathology labs and 80 diagnostic imaging practices are now connected to My Health Record, and there are over 1.6 million pathology and 151,000 diagnostic imaging reports already uploaded to the system.

"These uploaded reports are helping Australians by improving access to their health information and to reduce unnecessary tests and scans," Mr Kelsey said.

People with a My Health Record can access their latest pathology and diagnostic imaging reports one week after they are added to the system. This timing gives their healthcare provider time to check the report and contact them about the results if needed.



For people who do not want a report added to their My Health Record, providers can tick the 'do not send to My Health Record' box on the request form. People can also instruct their doctor or the pathology or diagnostic imaging service not to upload the report.

In addition, individuals can set document access controls within their My Health Record, and remove pathology and diagnostic imaging reports from their record at any time.

In some circumstances certain pathology reports may not appear in an individual's My Health Record, even if they have not withdrawn consent for upload, in accordance with legislation. For example, reports may not be uploaded on a person's AIDS or HIV status if there are disclosure restrictions set by state or territory legislation.

#### **Further information**

The full list of health care organisations connected to the My Health Record system is available on this [web page](#).

#### **ENDS**

#### **Media contact**

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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](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au).

#### **About Mater Group**

The Mater Group comprises a network of hospitals, health centres, a medical research institute, a nationally accredited registered training organisation, and pathology and pharmacy businesses. Further information: [www.mater.org.au](http://www.mater.org.au)

#### **About Paradise Ultrasound**

Paradise Ultrasound is a large sonography practice at Benowa on Queensland's Gold Coast. The company's sonographers are specialised in obstetrics, musculoskeletal, and echocardiograms. Further information: [www.paradiseultrasound.com.au](http://www.paradiseultrasound.com.au).

#### **About VCS Pathology**

VCS is a Melbourne based specialist laboratory committed to providing excellence in cervical cytology, human papillomavirus testing, histopathology, and Chlamydia testing. Further information: [www.vcspathology.org.au](http://www.vcspathology.org.au).