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You always have a choice with My Health Record

Australians can choose to have or cancel a My Health Record at any point in their life.

New laws to strengthen the privacy and security protections within My Health Record mean that from tomorrow, a function has been activated in the My Health Record system that allows a person to permanently delete their record at any time, including any backups.

All records that have previously been cancelled will also be permanently deleted from the system.

If a person changes their mind, they can choose to register for a record to enjoy the benefits of controlling their health information securely in one place to support their health and care.

My Health Record is an online summary of a person's key health information. It allows them to share and control their health information with doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers, from anywhere at any time.

Key facts and figures

- 6.45 million Australians currently have a My Health Record.

- Since July 2018, almost half a million Australians have decided not to wait for a My Health Record to be created for them, and have chosen to have a record created for them.

- 82% of general practices are now connected to My Health Record.

- 84% of community pharmacies are now connected to My Health Record. The increase in pharmacy connections has tripled in the past 6 months.

- 75% of public hospitals are now connected to My Health Record.

New laws passed by Parliament last year strengthen the legislation prohibiting insurers and employers to access or use My Health Record information, or to ask a person to disclose the information, for insurance or employment purposes under any circumstance.

The new laws also legislate the Agency's existing policy around disclosure to law enforcement agencies - law enforcement agencies cannot access a person's My Health Record without a warrant or court order.

"I am pleased to have more control and choice over my wellbeing and who has access to this, which has lead me to become more invested in my own health needs. I believe information is power and My Health Record has empowered me to no longer rely on others to manage my personal health information," said My Health Record user and carer Melissa Williams.

"Having a My Health Record places the control of a person's healthcare directly into their hands," said Professor Meredith Makeham, Chief Medical Advisor for the Australian Digital Health Agency.

"After 31 January 2019, a My Health Record will be created for everyone who has not opted out of the system

"However, January 31 is not a cut-off date for Australians to continue to have a choice about using My Health Record to manage their health and care.

"The new permanent delete functionality means Australians will always have the choice not to have a record and they can remove all of their data from the My Health Record system. At any time in their lives, they can delete their record — and no copy will be kept."

For more information on My Health Record, go to myhealthrecord.gov.au

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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.