

MEDIA RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

My Health Record opt out period

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) joins others today in expressing concern about the end of the My Health Record opt out period.

The opt out period closes tomorrow, before further issues relating to privacy and confidentiality are considered by parliament.

Community members are sensitive about the possibility of disclosure of personal information, including HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C status, along with gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health or history of illicit drug use.

AFAO has recommended amendments to the My Health Record legislation, including judicial oversight of the disclosure of records, along with giving individuals a right to permanently destroy their My Health Record as ways to address these concerns.

AFAO welcomes changes agreed last week which include increased penalties for misuse of records and tighter protections around sharing of records.

AFAO believes My Health Record brings enormous potential benefit. Extending the opt out period would give more time for education about My Health Record, including legislative amendments once passed, and improve public confidence in these benefits.

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Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

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The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the national federation for the HIV community response in Australia. AFAO works to end HIV transmission and reduce its impact on communities in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. AFAO's members are the AIDS Councils in each state and territory; the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWA); the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); the Anwernekenhe National HIV Alliance (ANA); and Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association. AFAO's affiliate member organisations – spanning community, research, public health and clinical workforce – share AFAO's values and support the work we do.