



From solid foundations to a new frontier: digitally enabling health policy reform in Australia

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Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We would like to extend that acknowledgement and respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Complexity of the health system





Digital health policy foresight

“If you asked Australians if we should create a system where their health information could be easily transferred between their health practitioners, many would be surprised that such a system does not already exist.

The sad truth is that our medical information is not connected – despite how logical and possible it is to achieve.

In many ways, absence of a system of electronic health records in Australia demonstrates the difficulties of health reform - the fragmentation, the vested interests and the balancing priorities.

But we clearly know the evidence of why we need to act.”

Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing

Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records Bill 2011 Second Reading 23/11/2011



My Health Record – A legislative foundation for information sharing



- Ensures **consumers have choice** and control and can be appropriately represented
- Provides a dedicated framework, **balancing data sharing needs with consumer privacy**
- Mitigates potential risks through **robust criteria for participation** and proportionate sanctions
- Additional **protections and controls which reflect community expectations** in an opt-out operating environment
- Governance arrangements that **separate data custody, operations and regulatory oversight** between entities with the right expertise



Digital health trends

There are more than **23.6 million** total My Health Record and over **98%** have data in them

143,738,285 million electronic prescriptions created (original & repeats)

Almost 1 in every 5 medicines dispensed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is done from an electronic prescription

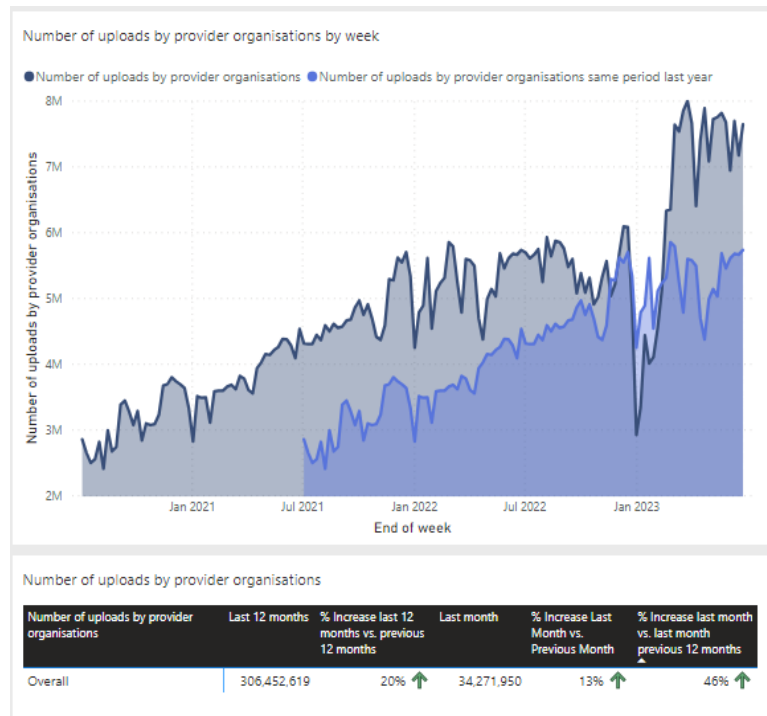
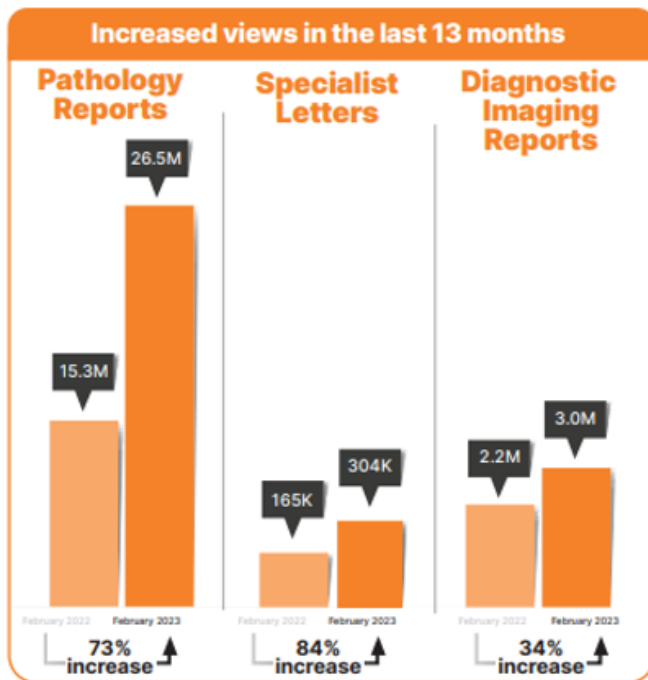
The volume of records with data in them has grown by over **500K** in the last year

Since March 2020 some **143.8 million** Telehealth services have been delivered to more than **19 million** Australians

61,319 prescribers generated at least one electronic prescription



My Health Record – Views and Uploads

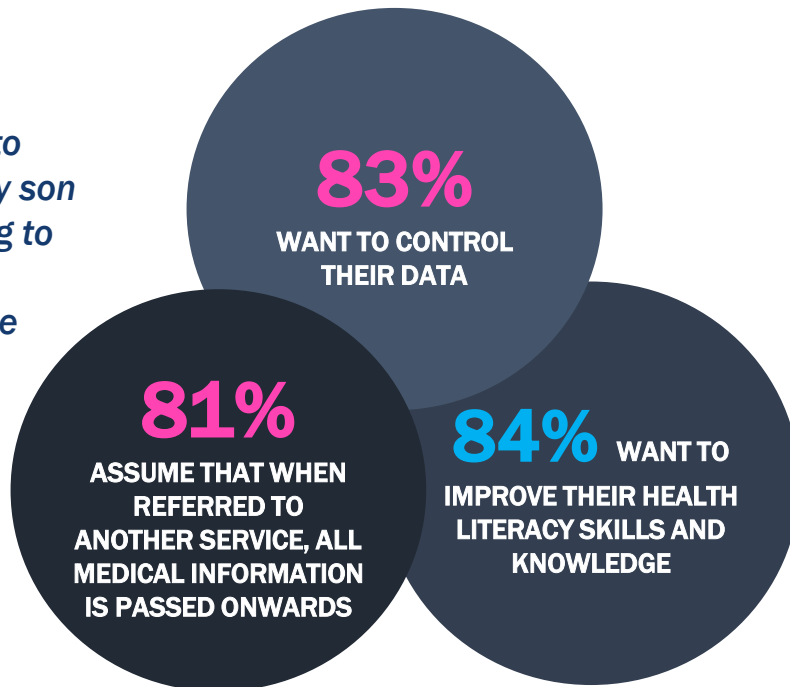




Consumer expectations

“You want less explanation to have to occur –I feel that my son had a worse outcome having to explain everything multiple times ...it added stress to the situation.”

Carer, Mental Health, ACT



“It's about time!”

Digital health... is an absolutely essential part of a world class healthcare system for Australians.”

Consumer, National Digital Health Survey



Budget 2023-24 – Digital Health Initiatives

Australian Digital Health Agency (Agency)

\$325.7M (4yrs)

Establish the Agency as an ongoing entity

Expanding e-Prescribing

\$111.8M (4yrs)

Prescription delivery service

Expand electronic medication charts

Mandates for high cost and dangerous medicines

Implement e-prescribing in Hospitals (funded via IGA)

My Health Record

\$429M (2yrs)

Continued operation of MHR system, including improved connections, terminology and ongoing modernisation

MHR Data Platform

\$38.4M

Establish a new MHR data platform, to continue the transition from a clinical document (PDF) system to a structured data system

Sharing by default

\$13.1M

Progressively transition from an optional to a 'Share by Default' setting for health providers, commencing with pathology and diagnostic imaging

Allied health connections to MHR

\$5.8M

Support allied health providers to connect and use digital health infrastructure, including My Health Record

Intergovernmental Agreement

\$126.8M (4yrs)

CSIRO - FHIR

\$9.3M

CSIRO to work with all Australian Governments, the Agency and the health technology industry to develop and adopt Fast Health Interoperability Resources (FHIR) core standards – to support the sharing and exchange of Health Information and Data.

e-Requesting

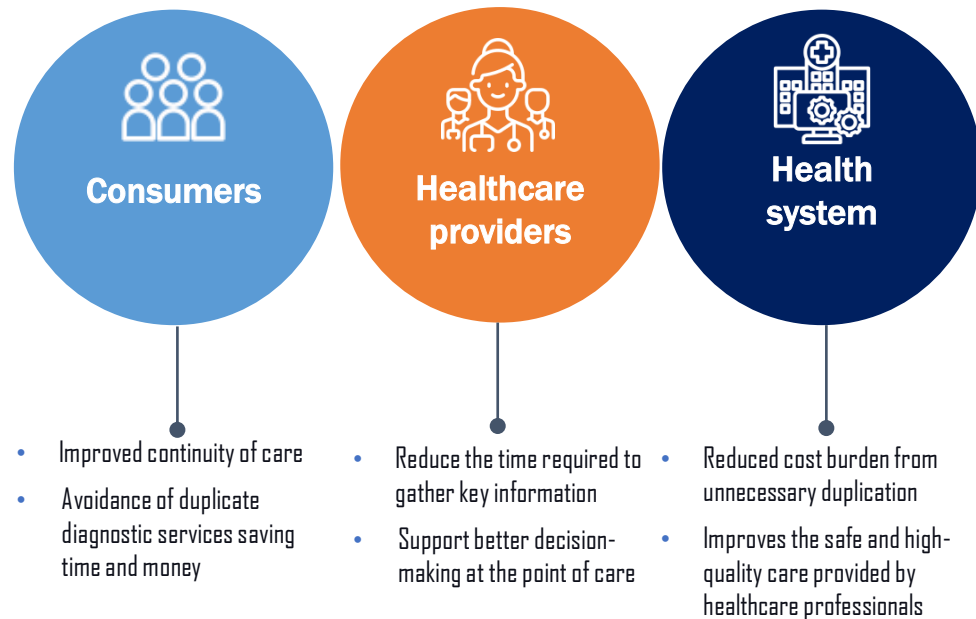
\$5.8m

Department and CSIRO to design a national electronic Requesting capability for Pathology and DI, this will also enable clinical data sharing data with MHR



Sharing by default reporting to My Health Record

- Beginning with pathology and diagnostic imaging reports, the initiative funds sector collaboration to inform policy, legislative requirements and the accreditation standards needed to achieve sharing to My Health Record by default.
- The Agency will also support sector connections to My Health Record for the sharing of pathology and diagnostic imaging reports.
- New mandates to share vital reports to My Health Record will give patients and their healthcare providers easy access to crucial health information when needed





Supporting a connected healthcare system



- Connecting Australian Healthcare – National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028
- Council for Connected Care
- FHIR AU Core, CSIRO – data and exchange standards for eRequesting pathology and diagnostic
- New governance arrangements for standards use, development and prioritisation in partnership with the standards community and industry



Digital transformation - the next frontier

Future state: connected healthcare

- Person-centred: Consumers tell their story once, regardless of who they are or where they are
- Data driven: Reduced duplication through real-time availability of more health data (such as test results)
- Inclusive: Seamless information exchange and access regardless of provider, care setting or jurisdiction
- Digitally enabled: Time saved looking for information, improving patient care and resource allocation

