



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Report into the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record

A review into the implementation and uptake of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record system has made 38 recommendations to address shortcomings of the system and make it more effective for doctors and patients.

Speaking at the HIMSS Australia Conference in Sydney, the Minister for Health, Peter Dutton, said the report provided crucial advice on how the PCEHR could be improved.

“The report found strong support for continuing to develop and implement a consistent and effective electronic health record for all Australians,” Mr Dutton said.

Key concerns identified in the report include challenges associated with the registration process linked to the opt-in nature of the PCEHR system, the limited amount of clinically usable information, inadequate governance arrangements and the usability of the system.

The 2014-15 Budget provided \$140.6 million to support the operation of eHealth and the PCEHR system for 12 months, while the Government continues planning its response to recommendations of the PCEHR review.

“The Government will continue considering the recommendations over the coming months to understand the issues, their implications and in consultation with key stakeholders, determine the best ways to deliver on the intended outcomes,” Mr Dutton said.

“It’s clear many of the existing problems with the PCEHR system stem from the rushed early implementation.

“The Abbott Government fully supports the concept of a national eHealth record system but it needs to be effective, functional and easy for all Australians to use, while being clinically relevant to our doctors, nurses and other frontline healthcare providers.”

The review was undertaken by an expert group led by Mr Richard Royle, Executive Director of the UnitingCare Health Group in Queensland and supported by Australian Medical Association President, Dr Steve Hambleton, and Mr Andrew Walduck, Chief Information Officer of Australia Post.

The report is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/eHealth>.

For more information, contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220