25th session of the OECD Health Committee

Item 9:
(a) High-Level Policy Forum 'Health in the 21st Century: Data, Policy and Digital Technology': Update, Provisional Agenda and Issue Notes
(b) Putting Data to Work for Better Health and Stronger Health Systems - Draft Key Findings of the Report on Knowledge-Based Health Systems
Thursday 20 June 2019/10:00-12:00/OECD Headquarters, Paris, France

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2. Australian initiatives

2.1 My Health Record

My Health Record is Australia's national digital health record system which has operated since 2012. It is an electronic summary of an individual's key health information that can be shared securely online between the individual and their healthcare providers when and where it is needed.

The transition to an opt-out participation model for the My Health Record system began in July 2018 and concluded in January 2019. Making the My Health Record system more useable and reliable is central to gaining the support and acceptance of healthcare providers and individuals, thereby leading to increased use and more effective and efficient provision of healthcare. Regardless of how people participate in the

My Health Record system, all Australians will benefit from the system through improved continuity of care and reduced adverse events.

As at June 2019, there are over 15,000 healthcare provider organisations registered in the My Health Record system, with over 17 million clinical documents now available in the system. The national participation rate is 90.1% of all eligible Australians.

2.2 Secondary use of My Health record data

Australian has developed a framework to guide the secondary use of My Health Record system data for public health and research purposes. The purpose of the Framework is to guide how My Health Record system data may be used for public health research purposes in the future.

Elements of the framework were legislated as part of the Australian Government's amendments to the *My Health Records Act 2012*, which came into effect on 11 December 2018. These include: establishing a Data Governance Board (the Board) which will consider applications for data; identifying the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) as the data custodian; and enable Rules to be developed that will impose requirements on persons handling My Health Record information for research or public health purposes.

It is expected that My Health Record data will be used for public health and research purposes from 2020. Data will not be made available before 2020 in order to provide sufficient time for governance, security, privacy, ethical and technical arrangements to be implemented.

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