

MEDIA RELEASE

16 July 2018

Community engaging during intense period

Monday 16 July marks the beginning of an extensive national community engagement and communications strategy to inform all Australians on the benefits of My Health Record and their right to opt out should they choose not to have a digital health record.

“The benefits of My Health Record must be accessible to all Australians. There has been a particular focus in our communications research on developing appropriate support for people with limited digital literacy or access, and other groups including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and people living in rural and remote communities,” Australian Digital Health Agency CEO, Mr Tim Kelsey said.

31 primary health networks (PHN) across the country will join the Australian Digital Health Agency to engage with consumers at the grass roots level.

“Western Sydney PHN is very pleased to be providing education opportunities to both providers and the general public about My Health Record. In the consumer arena, people will be able to have meaningful conversations with our PHN’s Community Engagement Officer and attend presentations to get the facts on the system,” said Western Sydney PHN CEO, Walter Kmet.

“We are committed to providing accurate information about what My Health Record is capable of doing so that everyone can weigh up the benefits. Most people for example don’t know that each person’s My Health Record is empty until activated by the first medical practitioner using it or the individual opening it for the first time. Any concerns about past medical history being automatically uploaded can be debunked.”

“People also might be surprised to know that they can link their record to another loved ones in the case of care situations. For parents this means they can manage their kid’s account as an Authorised Representative. In the case of elderly parents, they can appoint their adult child to be a Nominated representative to receive timely information shared by their medical practitioner. This is a great advantage for families to stay connected and involved. Being fully informed in their loved ones’ health journeys can bring peace of mind,” said Mr Kmet.

“In our area we are going to have a mixture of stalls at community expos, visits to the waiting rooms of General Practices, attendance at meetings of local community groups. If a local resident has a group they belong to that they wish to have our Community Engagement Officer attend, we encourage them to contact us on 8811 7100 or email support@wentwest.com.au.”

The opt out period runs from 16 July – 15 October 2018 with consumers invited to view the www.myhealthrecord.gov.au or call 1800 723 471 for more information.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Alison Rooke
Marketing, Communications and Event Manager
E: alison.rooke@wentwest.com.au

Twitter: @WentWest_Ltd

About WentWest

WentWest's focus on providing better health care in the community was strengthened with its appointment as a Tranche 1 Medicare Local in July 2011 to now operating as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network. WentWest has built on its experience as a Division of General Practice in supporting GPs and their practices, connecting health services to meet local needs, and striving for better health outcomes for western Sydney.

The population living in western Sydney is culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse, and we also have the largest urban Aboriginal community in Australia. WentWest works closely with doctors, allied health professionals, the Western Sydney Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health services for patients and their families.