



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 26 July, 2018

Help to access My Health Record

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the national peak advocacy organisation for children under eight, their families and professionals in the field, will support the roll out of the My Health Record expansion program, government initiative managed by the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA)

ECA will provide a [webpage](#), updates and links to provide information to early childhood educators and families with young children about My Health Record and its benefits for all Australians, and inform people of their choice to stay in or opt out of the process.

‘This initiative will give families and their health practitioners 21st century tools for managing family health,’ said Early Childhood Australia CEO Samantha Page.

‘My Health Record is an update on the paper version (baby health record books given to parents when their child is born) and will help families, GPs, maternal and child health nurses and other health professionals work together in the best interests of child and family health.’

‘Early Childhood Australia will communicate the benefits of My Health Record to our members and the families that use early childhood services. The potential benefits include more accurate and accessible records of vaccinations, childhood illnesses, allergies and prescribed medications which can in reduce duplication of tests, improve -coordinated care and inform treatment decisions.’

‘Families and parents will have direct access to their own and their children’s health records in one place, in a form that can be shared with their nominated health professionals.’

‘Importantly families will be able to control which health professionals have access to the record. A secure, accessible record of a child’s illnesses scans and medications will help families stay on top of their own health information.’

‘One of the really useful features of My Health Record is that families and parents can add information too, such as a note about their child’s allergies.’

Early Childhood Australia will provide a webpage with information and links to the government’s My Health Record so that early childhood educators, carers and managers are informed about the new initiative and know where to refer families for more information.

Digital Health Agency CEO Tim Kelsey said that the benefits of digital health for patients are significant and compelling.

‘Having a My Health Record means that your important health information such as: allergies; current conditions and treatments; medicine details; and pathology, and diagnostic imaging reports can be digitally stored in one place.’

'My Health Record also places Australians in control of their healthcare and gives authorised healthcare providers secure digital access to key health information at the point of care, wherever that may be," Mr Kelsey said.'

By the end of 2018, the Digital Health Agency will have digitised My Health Records for all Australians except those who opt out. Doctors, pharmacists and authorised healthcare providers will be able to access a person's My Health Record to assist in their treatment of patients and issues such as prescription of medicines and advance care planning.

People who choose not to have a My Health Record will be able to register not to have one during a three-month opt-out period until 15 October.

To view ECA page go to: <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/digital-health-record/>

For further information on My Health Record go to: www.myhealthrecord.gov.au

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