

Submission to Senate Standing Committee on PCEHR Legislation

Hi, I was just wondering if you could look into the issue of whether enough ID is required for patients to register for a PCEHR record? I understand that the former Health Minister Nicola Roxon wanted to make it as easy as possible for patients to sign up, but my worry is that in doing so, she made it too easy for third parties to sign a patient up without them knowing. In particular, all the information required (full name, DOB, gender and Medicare number) would all already be known to most patients' doctors. How can patients be sure that their doctors won't be signing them up to this system without them knowing? Will patients be informed once they have been registered and be given a cooling off period during which they can cancel their registration and, importantly, have all their data deleted?

There are things that this legislation should be commended for though, mostly for making it an opt-in system which requires active, informed consent; for making it patient-controlled; and for ensuring that data processing can't be off-shored to countries with less rigorous privacy laws. These are all things which I hope will remain in the final legislation which passes through parliament.

Thankyou,

L. Hunter.

