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30 August 2018

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **Re : My Health Record System**

The Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) is the peak scientific body in Australia & New Zealand representing clinicians, scientists and researchers in the broad area of Sleep. Our vision is the provision of world standard research, education and training, and establishment of clinical standards to ensure clinical best practice in sleep medicine resulting in an informed community with healthy sleep practices.

### **Expected benefits of My Health Record (MHR)**

ASA believes this will:

- Enable wide and universal access to results of sleep studies and notes from treating clinicians
- Assist to ensure consistency of patient management, avoid duplication of tests and unnecessary investigations.
- Be beneficial for patients
- Reduce costs to the health system
- Improve treatment usage - patient ability to access test results encourages engagement with their management. Treatment adherence is one of the challenges faced by patients and empowering and involving patients in the management of their health care has been shown to improve treatment usage.

### **Privacy and Security Concerns**

The sleep industry has to an extent addressed these issues in relation to cloud-based storage of CPAP adherence information. A system has been developed that to date has proven secure and robust, with only those authorised to access sensitive patient medical information able to do so.

We feel the Government is well positioned to ensure that all health records are maintained in a secure manner, only accessible by authorised bodies.

### **Administration of the MHR roll-out**

Although there has been an effective public campaign, it is felt that little effort has been made to engage clinicians in the process, to inform them of their responsibilities or how the system will work.

**Future Directions**

We believe there should be a standardisation of all public health information systems to allow automatic uploading of information to the My Health Record platform. This would require a substantial investment, but the returns in terms of improved patient health and well-being, as well as reduced costs of administering the health system, would far outweigh any initial outlay.

Should you require any further information in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Peter Eastwood  
President

Maree Barnes  
Immediate Past President