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## OPT-OUT MUST BE BROUGHT IN

The Australian College of Nursing is calling on the Federal Government to adopt the key recommendation of the Evaluation of the Participation Trials for the My Health Record final report and implement a national opt-out approach to shared electronic health records.

“Shared electronic health records will save lives,” Australian College of Nursing CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said. “My Health Record, if rolled-out successfully, will mean no matter where in Australia a person is being treated, the health professionals looking after them will have access to their medical history.

“Knowing a patient’s allergies, recent illnesses, and medications can protect against potential medical error – medical error caused by having to make clinical decisions without knowing a patient’s history.”

The Australian College of Nursing supports an opt-out approach as it will ensure the broadest and easiest take-up by individuals.

“We can see from the report, that when Australians understand the benefits of a shared electronic health record, they want to participate. An opt-out approach makes it quick and hassle free for them to do so, while still enabling people to choose not to participate if they so wish,” Adjunct Professor Ward said.

ACN supports the report’s recommendation that health professionals receive further training in use of electronic health records.

Feedback gathered during the trial indicated that for some people their general practice nurse was a primary source of information and motivation to sign up to My Health Record.

“General practice teams definitely have a role in educating the population and ensuring people get the most from this technology,” Adjunct Professor Ward said. “But we cannot ask them to be the only source and have them be who patients go to with problems around access.

“They will of course share their knowledge of the benefits of My Health Record with patients, but the bulk of access support and promotion must be undertaken by the Government.”

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Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



# Australian College of Nursing

Advancing nurse leadership

## Notes to Editors:

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the national professional organisation for all nurse leaders and its aim is to ensure that the Australian community receives quality nursing care now and in the future. ACN is a membership

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organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialties. ACN is also the Australian member of the International Council of Nurses headquartered in Geneva.

ACN, an organisation not afraid to intelligently challenge industry issues affecting the nursing profession or Australia's health care, is a well-connected and educated national body that drives change with people of influence to enhance the delivery of health services to the Australian community. ACN advances the skills and expertise of nurses to provide leadership in their contribution to the policy, practice and delivery of health care.

A membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialties, ACN's membership includes many nurses in roles of influence, including senior nurses, organisational leaders, academics and researchers.

### **What is the role of ACN to media?**

- ACN provides trusted, well supported information about Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN has a number of media-savvy spokespeople within the organisation who can comment on Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN offers media with an alternative voice to that of an industrial relations perspective.
- ACN is in-the-know and can comment on health care matters of interest.
- ACN can respond to media requests in a timely manner and with subject/clinical expert's available on-hand for further discussion.
- ACN regularly responds to government updates pertaining to Australia's health care system.

### **What role does ACN play?**

ACN is here to act and deliver results as agents of change. They are working towards a brighter future through advancing nurse leadership to enhance the delivery of health care to all. The organisation provides nurse leaders with access to relevant information, support and education that will enhance Australia's reputation on the world stage.

### **Social media channels:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acnursing>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/acn\\_tweet](https://twitter.com/acn_tweet)

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