

10 January 2025

Dear Committee Secretariat

Thank you for considering my submission regarding a proposed legislative amendment to the My Health Record.

I disagree with such an amendment. I believe the government's approach towards centralising all and sundry information about individuals is not only invasive, but is taking on duties and responsibilities that is not in anyone's best interests.

People need to take ownership of themselves and their lives. When responsibility is relegated to others, in this instance, the government, the less capable people become in their cognitive abilities and the capacity to look after and think for themselves. As with parenting, if children aren't supported and enabled to stand on their own two feet, they become incapable of taking care of themselves and become dependent.

I also don't understand why the government wants to create more work, and consequently costs by way of increased staffing and bureaucratic processes. The machinations of government are already overly large. And if the legislation is passed, but individuals can safeguard their privacy through their healthcare provider, what happens when an error occurs whereby, for example, someone goes into 'auto' mode and misses that vital piece of information? What could be perceived as a minor oversight on one person's part can mean huge ramifications for another.

I am also concerned that once the legislation is in place then 'adjustments' will be made where individuals no longer have such a privacy option. That slow-creep that often comes about nowadays, when something is agreed to but the boundaries become blurred and spread.

Please allow people to act responsibly on their own behalf, rather than the government deciding what it considers is in their best interests.

Yours sincerely