

Senate Inquiry: Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010 and Healthcare Identifiers (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010

I sincerely apologise for such a brief submission on the enquiry into the policy and implementation of Australia's future Healthcare Identifiers Service. My submission is to simply alert the enquiry of my view that Australia is missing a unique opportunity by not having the unique healthcare identifier number the same as the Medicare number. This would have the added advantage of every Australian being issued for the first time with an individual and unique Medicare number compatible with achieving the aims of e-health as the ultimate goal. It is suggested that having the one number would enhance compliance by all stakeholders and fast track participation in all programs associated with the role of the E health initiative. I have had discussions with staff working on the HI service and no one has yet put a case against the suggestion that issuing unique Medicare numbers to all Australians would not be compatible with the HI Service goals.

Apologies if this submission is too late or brief to be seriously considered but I have just had the Senate enquiry drawn to my attention. This unique opportunity for unique individual Medicare numbers as part of an E Health initiative will not present again.