

***My Health Record* Implementation – children and young people in Out of Home Care**

What is the *My Health Record*?

The *My Health Record* is the Australian Government's new Digital Health system. The record is an online health summary which contains important information about the individual including their:

- medical conditions and treatments
- allergies
- medicine details, and
- test or scan results.

The *My Health Record* is personally controlled. This means that the individual can decide what gets uploaded, what stays in the record and who can view it. Health information stored in the record can be added by the individual, their healthcare providers, or Medicare.

How is the *My Health Record* initiative being implemented?

As part of the 2017-18 Budget, the Australian Government announced that the *My Health Record* system would transition to opt-out participation.

This means that during the opt-out period a *My Health Record* will be created automatically for every individual unless they decided that they do not want one created. The national opt-out period commenced in mid July and will conclude in mid October 2018.

What happens to children and young people in OOHC during the national *My Health Record* opt-out period?

During the national opt-out period children and young people who are currently in the care responsibility of the Secretary or in statutory OOHC will have a *My Health Record* created for them with a restriction placed on it to ensure their safety. This means that the record will only be able to be viewed by FACS centrally and their health care providers. This measure is to ensure that the address and other details for children, young people and carers remain confidential.

What will happen to the *My Health Records* of children and young people who enter OOHC after the opt-out period?

Children and young people who enter the care responsibility of the Secretary or statutory OOHC after the opt-out period may already have a *My Health Record* created for them. When they enter OOHC a restriction will be placed on their existing *My Health Record* to ensure their safety while they are in care.

While they are in OOHC their *My Health Record* can be viewed only by FACS centrally and their health care providers. The child or young person's birth parents and carers will not be able to view the record. When the child or young person leaves statutory OOHC the restriction will be lifted from their *My Health Record*.

While the *My Health Record* is restricted, information will still be uploaded to it by the child or young person's health care provider to ensure that a full health history is available to them when they leave care.

Further information will be provided to caseworkers about the *My Health Record* and children in OOHC at the conclusion of the opt-out period.

Do caseworkers need to do anything about the child or young person's *My Health Record* during the opt-out period?

The caseworker does not need to do anything to ensure that a child or young person's *My Health Record* is created, restricted or unrestricted. These processes will be undertaken by the Australian Digital Health Agency and FACS centrally.

What information can caseworkers provide to birth parents and carers about the *My Health Record*?

Caseworkers should advise birth parents that their child or young person's *My Health Record* will be restricted while they are in OOHC. Carers can also be provided with this advice.

The caseworker can provide parents and carers with the attached *My Health Record* brochure developed by the Agency to answer questions they may have about the initiative.

How can caseworkers find out more about the *My Health Record* initiative?

More information about the *My Health Record* is available at MyHealthRecord.gov.au or by contacting the *My Health Record* Help line on 1800 723 471.

More information about the *My Health Record* opt-out period and children in NSW OOHC can be obtained by contacting the Design and Stewardship Unit, Child and Family Directorate on OOHC.Initiatives@facs.nsw.gov.au