



## Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare

21 July 2018

The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health and Sport  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
**By email: [minister.hunt@health.gov.au](mailto:minister.hunt@health.gov.au)**

Dear Minister Hunt,

I write to you about the rollout of the My Health Record.

There has been significant and growing community concern about the My Health Record since the beginning of the opt-out period on Monday, 16 July.

As a result of these concerns, we believe there is now a strong case to extend the opt-out period beyond the three months currently planned so the Government can launch a comprehensive information campaign to educate the public and restore their trust in this reform.

Let us be clear: Labor supports e-health and the My Health Record.

Implemented properly, we believe this project could deliver significant benefits to clinicians and patients alike, and save our health system billions of dollars. That's why Labor began delivering electronic health records when last in office.

But we are concerned that the Government's implementation of the opt-out process has seriously undermined public trust in this important policy.

We believe the Government has failed to effectively communicate with the public about what the My Health Record is and what potential benefits it could bring. It has also failed to explain to people how their rights will be respected and their privacy protected.

This approach has fuelled suspicion and scepticism – which may be why tens of thousands of people have rushed to opt out in the first week.



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The first week has also brought a host of technical issues that have further fuelled concerns about how safe people's data truly is.

Labor believes the Government should extend the opt-out period and launch a comprehensive information campaign to educate the public and restore their trust in this endeavour.

Has the Government considered this course of action?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine King'.

Catherine King