

# **SUPPORT FOR 12-MONTH EXTENSION TO OPT-OUT PERIOD FOR 'MY HEALTH RECORD'**

Harm Reduction Victoria's peak body, the Australian and Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) has joined a growing chorus of community groups supporting Australian Senate moves to extend the opt-out period for the 'My Health Record' by 12 months.

The deadline to opt-out is currently tomorrow November 15 - but the recommended deadline extension – along with a host of other recommendations from a recent Senate Committee report, remain unaddressed.

We hope that the Senate of Australia will today extend the opt-out period. Mel Walker AIVL CEO says, "While the concept is sound, AIVL's concerns are focused on the potential for unintended consequences for people who use drugs. People who use drugs are already often confronted with stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. The implementation of My Health Record as it currently stands will mean that for many people, there will be a whole host of people in healthcare settings who will have access to a lot more information than previously. While in some cases this may be useful, there are many instances in which access to additional information may not be helpful and may indeed contribute to experiences of stigma and discrimination by people."

If people are concerned about this potential for stigma & discrimination they have until midnight on November 15 to opt out. If the Senate do extend the opt-out period we will update this statement.

Sione Crawford  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Harm Reduction Victoria**

Phone: (03) 9329 1500

Mobile: 0406 755 921

P O Box 12720 A'beckett Street

Melbourne Vic 8006

Email: [sionec@hrvic.org.au](mailto:sionec@hrvic.org.au)

[www.hrvic.org.au](http://www.hrvic.org.au)

