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MEDIA STATEMENT

Budget 2014: Opportunity to get PCEHR right, says HISA

Australia's peak membership body for e-health and health informatics has welcomed the Federal Government's \$140m commitment to fund the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) saying there is an opportunity for ongoing consultation to get the system right.

Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) CEO Dr Louise Schaper said today: "We welcome the Government's clear statement in the Budget of their commitment to shared electronic health records for patients."

"The adoption of an innovation such as this is a long-term change management project and we are pleased the Government is taking the time to make the right decision for patients and for healthcare providers.

"This is a good opportunity for ongoing consultation to make sure we get this right."

Dr Schaper said HISA also welcomed the Government's ongoing support for primary care.

"The decision to create Primary Care Networks must continue the good work done by Medicare Locals.

"Primary care professionals need localised change and adoption support, like that provided by the Medicare Locals. This will continue to be essential, not just for implementation, but most importantly for use," she said.

She said HISA urges the Government to engage health information professional associations and colleges in the change management process.

"Depending on the outcomes of the PCEHR Review, any changes to PCEHR implementation would require more consultation, consumer engagement and smarter thinking to make it work. Our members can help with that," she said.

She said the Budget focus on productivity improvements in the health workforce aligned with HISA's vision for e-health: "We need to give healthcare professionals well-designed and well-implemented e-health tools and up skill them in health informatics."

"Healthcare professionals need to be the ones leading the transition from paper to digital and HISA members are experts in this," she said. "This means greater productivity and more effective healthcare delivery."

"As our healthcare system becomes digital, all Australians will reap the benefits of improved productivity and the government must support clinicians on this journey."

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HISA: Improving Australian healthcare through the use of technology and information

**About HISA:**

Membership organisation HISA is a not for profit body for health professionals and those with an interest in health informatics – the use of health information and technology for better health delivery. HISA is well known in Australia for the annual HIC, the largest e-health and health informatics conference event in Australia.

