

Understanding My Health Record: Factsheet for carers



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Child Protection

Information for carers about how the Department for Child Protection manages the My Health Record for children and young people in care.

My Health Record is an online summary of a person's key health information held in a central location. All Australians have a My Health Record unless they have opted out of the scheme. People can also choose to delete their record at any point in their life.

My Health Record brings together health information from an individual, their healthcare providers and Medicare.

Healthcare providers including doctors, specialists and hospital staff are able to see a person's My Health Record when they need to, including in an accident or emergency.

All children and young people under the guardianship or custody of the Chief Executive of the Department of Child Protection (DCP) are opted in to have a My Health Record.

Note: this does not apply to children under Long Term Guardianship (Specified Person) orders, as authority is placed with the guardian.

Keeping My Health Record information safe

In addition to health information, My Health Record can contain personal information, including a person's current address and contact details. It is for this reason that access to the record must be restricted while a child is in care.

When a child or young person comes into care under the guardianship or custody of the Chief Executive, **DCP places a restriction on their record.**

The restriction ensures the details of the child and you, as their carer, remain confidential.

When the child or young person leaves care, the restriction will be lifted from their My Health Record.

Benefits of My Health Record

Having a My Health Record can help:

- Health care providers provide better informed health care through online access to health information and medical history in a central place
- children and young people in care to have better access to their medical history as they grow up and when they leave care.

A My Health Record is particularly useful to health care providers where a child or young person:

- has complex health issues
- requires multiple healthcare providers
- has multiple changes of address.

Access to My Health Record

My Health Record is primarily an information sharing tool to help healthcare professionals provide better care to individuals.

The My Health Records of children and young people are only viewed by Senior Practitioners at each DCP office and a few staff centrally located in DCP's head office.

It is generally not necessary for you to access the information in My Health Record to meet the health needs of children or young people in your care.

More comprehensive information about health needs and actions to meet these needs is contained in the child or young person's Care Plan, and is available from the child's case worker.

If there are circumstances that require you to access information in the My Health Record, a request can be made through the child's case worker.

Turning 14

Young people from the age of 14 years have the right to manage their own My Health Record under the *My Health Record Act 2012*.

The My Health Record system automatically stops all people (other than healthcare providers) from viewing a young person's record when they turn 14.

If a young person in your care, who is aged 14 or over, would like to manage their My Health Record, make sure they speak with their case worker first. Further information can be found at:

www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/howtos/manage-your-record-from-age-14

If you have concerns about the capacity of the young person to safely manage their My Health Record, please discuss this with their case worker.

A young person in your care aged 14 or over does not have to manage their My Health Record, if they don't want to.

DCP has developed a factsheet for young people in care to ensure they are aware of the opportunities and risks when managing their My Health Record:

www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1048765/my-health-record-young-people-factsheet.pdf



Where can I learn more?

More information about My Health Record is available at myhealthrecord.gov.au or by contacting the My Health Record helpline on 1800 723 471.

If you have more questions, you can talk to the child's case worker.