



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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Public Statement: PCEHR

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) notes that large numbers of practitioners are signing up for the Practice Incentives Program (PIP), which is tied to the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR).¹ The APF further notes that very few of those practitioners are populating their patients' PCEHRs.²⁻³

The APF also observes that numbers of patients are signing up for the PCEHR, which is tied to the plethora of assisted registration services that do not explain governance or safety issues. Very few of the patients have initiated the population of PCEHRs post their assisted registration.⁴⁻⁵

This is good for bureaucrats in two ways:

1. it inflates the apparent take-up rate for the PCEHR
2. it enables the exploitation of individuals' personal health-care data for administrative purposes.⁶

But the multi-millions poured into the PCEHR project are delivering very little indeed in the way of positive outcomes for patients or clinicians.⁴

The APF and others argued, over many years, that the design of the PCEHR disclosed that the motivations were administrative, not health care. The cynical behaviour described above re-affirms what APF argued.

It is deplorable, both because of the waste of vast sums of taxpayer money on administrative convenience, and because of the exploitation of personal data for the benefit of public servants, not patients.

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