



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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30 December 2010

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion/letter>

Dear Editor,

RE: ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS MAY BE A GOOD IDEA, PHILLIP HUDSON, HERALD SUN, DECEMBER 28, 2010

Phillip Hudson's interesting editorial about Electronic health records (EHRs)¹ was an excellent starting point for discussion. However it begs several questions. Why has the government created a database compulsorily holding all personal information about all Australians from birth to grave if trust is at the heart of the personally controlled EHR? Will the private companies selling the EHR to Australians be linked to the government database? Why must the government hold or share all my information with other agencies? EHRs may provide a useful health care tool but where is the evidence? The government has decided to control my personal information because I might, not will, benefit from this. I know health administration, fraud and waste prevention, and access to data by researchers certainly will.

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Contact Details for the APF and its Board Members are at:
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

1. <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion/electronic-health-records-may-be-a-good-idea/story-e6frfhqf-1225976846510>