



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

<http://www.privacy.org.au>

[Secretary@privacy.org.au](mailto:Secretary@privacy.org.au)

<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

23 March 2010

Dr M. Haikerwal  
National Clinical Lead  
NEHTA

cc. Ms H. Versey, Victorian Privacy Commissioner  
Prof. G.W. Greenleaf, Cyberspace Law & Policy Centre, UNSW

Dear Dr Haikerwal

In the Sydney Morning Herald of Monday 22 March, you were quoted as saying that the e-health agenda had been "hijacked by those who are out defending the privacy of the agenda to the exclusion of all thought of benefits to the individual brought about by better healthcare". If this is an accurate report, then you have unjustifiably smeared multiple organisations and individuals and/or have failed to read their submissions.

For its part, the APF's policy on the matter was prepared by people who have actively worked to apply information technology in the health care sector in ways that are effective and responsible. Its public communications are always expressed in ways that indicate active support for appropriate approaches to eHealth. In case you have still failed to read our Policy Statement, despite multiple opportunities, a copy is attached.

Mr Fleming has consistently constructively misrepresented the facts about consultation with privacy groups. Sporadic meetings have been held, which have involved NEHTA briefing attendees. NEHTA has proven itself incapable of even listening, let alone engaging, or adapting its strategy and designs to reflect public concerns. Rather than bringing new understanding into the organisation, you have continued Mr Fleming's approach. In the latest example, your secretary contacted me several weeks ago to arrange a meeting. I indicated the multiple time-slots when I was available; but you made no contact with me.

Because NEHTA's initiatives involve enormous and unnecessary threats to personal data, they are doomed to rejection by health care professionals and the public. You are making yourself part of the problem, rather than part of a constructive solution, and your personal standing is suffering as a result.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke  
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation  
(02) 6288 1472      [Chair@privacy.org.au](mailto:Chair@privacy.org.au)