



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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G.P.O. Box 1196  
Sydney NSW 2001

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

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

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The Australian  
GPO Box 4245,  
Sydney, NSW, 2001,  
Australia.

**RE: E-health NT**

Dear Editor,

I felt uneasy reading Karen Dearne's article on the E-Health Logjam of September 9.

I was particularly concerned by the quotation from Lisa McGlynn, assistant secretary of the federal health department's eHealth and Technology branch. She is quoted as stating that the Northern Territory e-health implementation was successful.

There is no evidence to support this assertion.

In the audience of several E-Health NT presentations, I have read and heard evidence indicating a lack of success until the implementation was changed to opt-out rather than the opt-in system mooted by NEHTA.

The e-Health Future Directions Briefing Paper for AHMAC meeting 4 October 2007 also referred to the alleged success of E-Health NT, referring to a report that was not cited in the Paper. I asked for evidence to support this assertion and was advised by the Department of Health and Ageing that reports as to E-Health NT were not publicly available.

Where is the evidence? Why is the federal health department's eHealth and Technology branch making claims it can not substantiate?

Yours faithfully

Juanita Fernando  
Chair  
Health SubCommittee, Australian Privacy Foundation

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