

eHealth in first place at the Imparja Cup

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eHealthNT's Shared Electronic Health Record is delighted to be a major sponsor of the 2008 Imparja Cup, the pinnacle of Indigenous cricket.

The Shared Electronic Health Record (SEHR) is a dramatic advance in health care delivery, allowing patients to have their health records stored in a secure repository, accessible from multiple health sites, with patient consent. The Territory is a national leader in the implementation of the new system.

John Fletcher, Director of the eHealthNT SEHR, said that instant access to accurate health information can be the difference between life and death, particularly in emergency situations.

"The new service means patients can be reassured that there is a safe system allowing doctors, and other health carers, to access their health information. For a highly mobile population, as the Territory has, this system represents a quantum leap in patient care, especially for people who use different GPs, or a number of health centres. Patients no longer have to request file material, or recall prescriptions, and other treatment information – it's already there, and accessible, if you're signed up for the SEHR."

Mr Fletcher cited a recent instance where SEHR registration had prevented over-medication for a mother and her new child.

Sponsorship of the tournament coincides with the start of a concerted campaign to register consumers for the SEHR in Central Australia. This follows a successful ongoing Top End campaign that has seen more than 16,000 consumers registered, as well as over 1,000 providers joining the scheme. During the tournament, eHealthNT project officers will be at Imparja Cup venues to register consumers.

The Shared Electronic Health Record is a joint Australian and Territory Government initiative. It stores patients' summaries electronically in a secure repository which provides rapid access for participating providers, and eliminates the need for paper records to be faxed or mailed, or for multiple telephone calls between providers.

The SEHR was first trialled in Katherine after research had shown that communications barriers between different providers of health care for Indigenous Territorians were resulting in hospital re-admissions, service duplications, and self-discharges – all having a potential for adverse health outcomes.

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