

Health data privacy under scrutiny again as medical files abandoned in former aged care building

The NSW Government is under pressure to explain how hundreds of medical files were abandoned in a former aged care building in Helensburgh. The documents belonged to over 400 patients, the majority of whom are understood to be deceased, dating from 1992 to 2002.

Whilst NSW Health said the site was surrounded by signs warning of asbestos, ABC News reports that the building was unsecured and was being accessed by the public.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard has directed the Ministry of Health to audit archived records and has assured patients with medical records put in storage arrangements in the early 2000s that he will do whatever he can to rectify the situation.

Walt Secord, Labor's spokesman for health, has called for an independent, external investigation into the matter.

South East Sydney Local Health District's medical executive director, James Mackie, assured the public that all material related to historic and non-active patient files, and would contact any patients who have been affected by the incident.

[Read the full report here](#)