Health sector named as top industry for data breaches in new OAIC report

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) released its second quarterly Notifiable Data Breaches Quarterly Statistics report today, with the health industry reporting the highest number of data beaches this quarter.

This quarter, there were 242 data breach notifications, a significant increase from the 63 notifications received last quarter. Of these notifications,

- 36% were from human error
- 59% were from malicious or criminal attacks, and
- 5% were from system faults.

Most data breaches involved personal information relating to less than 100 individuals.

The most common personal information affected by the data breaches was contact information (89%) followed by financial details (42%) and identity information (39%).

The OAIC released the top five industry sectors by breach notifications, being:

- 1. Health service providers 49 breaches
- 2. Finance 36 breaches
- 3. Legal, accounting and management services 20 breaches
- 4. Education 19 breaches
- 5. Business and professional associations 15 breaches

The report has been released amid concerns regarding the safety of the new My Health Record, which will create online summaries of Australians' health information. Australians will have until 15 October 2018 to opt-out of having a My Health Record automatically created for them however, there have been calls for the program to be opt-in.

Read the full report here