

Media Release

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Cyber Aid: A remedy for online attacks

Cyber Wardens launches new healthcare industry campaign

MARCH 6, 2025: A new campaign to help health service providers shore up their online security has been launched in the wake of high-profile cyber attacks on health giants, including Genea and MediSecure.

COSBOA's Cyber Wardens says small providers such as GP clinics, podiatrists and massage therapists are just as vulnerable to cyber crime, as online fraudsters increasingly target the industry.

The free Australian government-funded program is warning the rise in attacks highlights the need for every healthcare professional to undertake cyber security training as it launches Cyber Aid, a new offering tailored to small healthcare businesses.

In the latest in a string of high-profile incidents, sensitive patient information was posted on the dark web after Australian IVF provider Genea was hacked on February 14. The [attack](#) was allegedly orchestrated by a ransomware group, and a raft of data, including names, addresses, phone numbers, Medicare records and medications, was accessed.

COSBOA CEO Luke Achterstraat said Cyber Aid has been launched at a critical time for the industry, providing free training through the Cyber Wardens program to help healthcare professionals defend against cyber threats.

"The health industry is a lucrative target for cyber criminals and the recent Genea attack is a timely reminder for every health service provider across Australia to bolster their cyber defences," he said.

"Small businesses, including medical practices, lose an average of \$49,600 per attack—a cost many simply cannot afford. It's a burning issue for patients too, with research showing 82 per cent of Australians fear unauthorised access to their health records.

“Cyber security is no longer just an IT issue—it’s a patient safety issue. With 95 per cent of cyber attacks caused by human error, every healthcare professional has a role in protecting sensitive information and ensuring compliance with privacy regulations.”

Worryingly, the healthcare sector is the number one target for data breaches, making up [19 per cent of all notifiable incidents](#) in the first half of 2024, figures from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner show.

A cyber crime was reported on average every six minutes in 2023–24, and more than 11 per cent of attacks were directed at critical infrastructure, including healthcare systems.

Healthcare professionals and their teams in small practices are encouraged to sign up for Cyber Aid training today and take the first step toward securing their practice.

Register for the free Cyber Aid webinars at cyberwardens.com.au/health.

For more tips and tricks to keep your small business safe, follow [@cyberwardens](#)

To arrange an interview, please email media@cyberwardens.com.au or call 0409 994 433.

Cyber Wardens is a national initiative of the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA), supported by the Australian Government and an industry alliance led by Telstra, CommBank and the Australian Cyber Security Centre, to help protect Australia’s 2.5 million small businesses from online threats.