



## AGE OF CONSENT INFORMATION

**QUESTION:** “Why can’t I get my son or daughter’s test results?”

**ANSWER:** The Age of Consent in Australia is 15 years.

**FACT:** This means that unless verbal or written permission is given by the person aged 15 or over, no third party is allowed access to information contained in the medical file or change or cancel their appointments.

**WHY?** This is a law not set in place by us, but by the Australian Government, to protect a patient’s privacy.

**QUESTION:** “But I have been able to access it before.”

**ANSWER:** The law is now very strict and comes with consequences for all parties if broken.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The fines involved for breaching the privacy act are: up to \$1.7 million for companies and up to \$340,000 for individuals. We can’t afford that – can you?

Please see the link below for the PDF containing further information (Chapter B: Key concepts, specifically page 13):

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/assets/privacy/app-guidelines/app-guidelines-july-2019.pdf>

*Please note: there are certain circumstances we can cancel or change appointments, such as – the patient is in hospital or has been involved in an accident. If the person aged 15 or over is happy to let a certain family member know test results or change appointments on their behalf, please see reception or speak to the doctor who will note it in the file for future reference.*