# Australian Federal Police Investigate Ransomware Attack on MediSecure



The Australian Federal Police are investigating a significant ransomware attack on electronic prescriptions provider MediSecure. The breach, reported on Wednesday, is believed to have originated from a third-party vendor. Despite the attack, the national cyber security coordinator, Lt Gen Michelle McGuinness, has assured that current ePrescriptions have not been compromised.

MediSecure has been a key player in electronic prescriptions since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, with over 189 million prescriptions issued by January 2024. Last year, the Australian health department transitioned to a single provider, eRx supplied by Fred IT Group, under a nearly $100 million, four-year agreement. Despite this shift, MediSecure continues to serve private providers.

Efforts are underway to assess the scale and nature of the impacted data. McGuinness emphasized that there is no immediate necessity for Australians to replace identity documents like Medicare cards, pending further investigation. Key healthcare sector bodies are being briefed on the situation.

A 2024 report by cybersecurity firm Sophos found that while the prevalence of ransomware attacks on Australian businesses has decreased, the average ransom payment has surged, reaching an average of US $6 million.