

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-559

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: INFRASTRUCTURE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Evidence was also given that people will have the capacity to register for a PCEHR by July 1, 2012. What does capacity mean in that context?
- b) Will everyone be able to register?
- c) What will registration at that point provide to those who do register?
- d) What encouragement will be provided to consumers to register?
- e) Will the PCEHR System be up and running nation wide by that date?

Answer:

- a) By 1 July 2012, the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system will have processes in place which will be defined through the PCEHR Concept of Operations and supporting legislation, which allow an individual to register to have a personally controlled electronic health record. Registration will be able to occur online, through face to face channels and postal channels.

b and c)

Yes, as long as an individual can satisfy the relevant identity verification processes, has a verified Individual Healthcare Identifier and has the ability to provide informed consent (or has a person legally authorised to provide that consent) that individual will be able to register to have a PCEHR. Once registered, the individual will be able to set up access controls, nominate representatives and register other individuals within their care. Individuals will also have the choice to allow certain Medicare data (MBS and PBS) to be available in their PCEHR. Where the capability exists, healthcare providers will also be able to start populating the PCEHR with clinical documents.

- d) The national roll out of the PCEHR system will actively seek to register individuals that are likely to receive immediate benefit from having a PCEHR. This includes those individuals who have complex and chronic conditions, older Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, mothers and their newborn children.

Registration of these individuals will involve a mix of information campaigns and assisted registration processes (where appropriate) to help support uptake. Further adoption strategies will be developed by the National Change and Adoption Partner.

- e) The PCEHR system will be available nationwide by 1 July 2012. All Australians will have the option to register for a PCEHR.