

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-364

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

NEHTA has sent out to software vendors a License Agreement for Testing and a License Agreement for Use of Healthcare identifiers but both these documents relate to the testing period and not the 'live' rollout due in 18 days time (at the time of writing).

These contractual agreements for the live PCEHR are crucial to all parties as they relate to issues of privacy, liability and tough provisions for 'failure', negligence and malfeasance. As in any contractual situation the software vendors need time to examine the contracts and negotiate changes before signing. If this system is to be launched in 18 days, as you have claimed for years, why is it that these crucial draft contracts still have not been given to the system's software vendors?

Answer:

The National E-Health Authority (NEHTA) has advised the Department of Health and Ageing that a Licence Agreement, for the use of personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) Licenced Materials for software vendors to use during their testing stages of connection to the PCEHR system, is in the final stages of completion. This follows a consultation period with software vendors. As part of the consultation period software vendors were provided with time to examine the agreement and provide feedback.