

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: E12-368

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

Key medical indemnity insurers are warning GPs not to participate as they could be exposed to a new wave of litigation. Insurers are advising doctors not to use the eHealth records until the issues are settled.

President of Medical Defence Australia Julian Rait said his organisation had serious concerns about the legal liabilities doctors would face if they used the Personally Controlled eHealth Record (PCEHR) and would "advise members not to participate until these problems are properly addressed".

In the view of NEHTA and DoHA what are the problems the medical community is concerned about regarding the issue of liability?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has negotiated acceptable terms for the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) healthcare provider organisation participation agreement, in close consultation with key stakeholders including medical indemnity insurers, the Australian Medical Association and other healthcare provider representative bodies. A number of shareholders have publicly supported the arrangements.