

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: E12-370

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

Doctors have also express grave concern that under the eHealth rules government officials would have the right to enter a doctor's surgery, seize all computers and take them away as part of an investigation.

Is this correct and if not, why not?

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.

The participation agreement includes a provision requiring the healthcare organisation, on reasonable notice, to provide reasonable assistance in relation to an inquiry, complaint or investigation being conducted, handled or facilitated by the PCEHR System Operator. A number of shareholders have publicly supported the arrangements.