

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-561

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: INFRASTRUCTURE AND REPOSITORIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Isn't the process of working out how the quality of information held in a shared record can be fit for purpose, quite fundamental to the successful operation of a PCEHR?
- b) Isn't the fact that you haven't worked that out yet quite alarming?
- c) Please provide a definition of repositories with at least three examples of a repository and three examples of a non-repository.

Answer:

- a) and b)
The concept for dealing with information in the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system including the source, quality and purpose of that information is described in the PCEHR Concept of Operations.
- c) A conformant repository is a store of information that will conform to the appropriate PCEHR standards and specifications required to ensure interoperability, privacy, integrity and long term availability of the healthcare information it holds. A conformant repository will be indexed by the PCEHR system to locate health information in order to draw it together for access through a PCEHR portal. It is expected that in many cases healthcare providers will send key information to conformant repositories, rather than be repositories themselves. For example, a GP might upload a patient's summary health record to a "health summary record repository". A hospital might upload a patient's discharge summary to a "discharge summary repository". Healthcare provider organisations could provide repositories, as long as they met the criteria and requirements for conformance.