

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-011

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems Capacity and Quality

Topic: eHEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

How are consumers being engaged in the design and delivery of the PCEHR system?

Answer:

Consumers have been engaged in eHealth developments that are fundamental to the design and delivery of the personally controlled electronic health records (PCEHR) system. In particular, consumer groups were consulted in the development of the National E-Health Strategy released by Health Ministers in December 2008, and the design and legislation and privacy framework for the Healthcare Identifiers Service in 2009. Since 2007, National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) has had consumer representation on its internal Stakeholder Reference Forum and project specific reference groups.

Since the announcement of the PCEHR in early 2010, there have been more than 39 stakeholder meetings, working group, roundtable discussions and forums, all of which have included consumer representatives.

In addition, the National eHealth Conference, held on 30 November and 1 December 2010, had 44 participants representing a wide variety of consumer organisations. Consumer representatives gave a keynote address, led a workshop, sat on an expert panel and helped in closing the conference.

NEHTA also established a Consumer Reference Forum in January 2011 to ensure that consumer and privacy representatives can be actively involved in the proposed design of the PCEHR system. A meeting of this forum occurred in March, with further consumer consultations planned through to 30 June 2011.