

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-194

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

NEHTA's strategy documents are consistently missing any published SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) Metrics to aid with the performance management and accountability of this COAG tax payer funded non-profit private corporation. How can DOHA demonstrate that the performance management of NEHTA is being conducted competently and how can DOHA demonstrate that NEHTA is being held accountable for its spending of tax payers money to achieve promised outcomes in the absence of such SMART Metrics?

Answer:

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) funds and mandates how the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) develops and progresses eHealth funded activities.

NEHTA is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Its members are the Australian Government and the eight state and territory governments. NEHTA is governed by a Board of Directors comprising of the chief executives of the health agencies from all jurisdictions, three independent directors and an independent Chair.

NEHTA's Strategic Plan describes the COAG funded milestones achieved to date, the work planned to progress the key eHealth foundations and initiatives for the remaining period of NEHTA's current COAG funding. The Strategic Plan is publicly available on the NEHTA website at <http://www.nehta.gov.au/about-us/strategy>.

Progress of NEHTA's work program is monitored through the Standing Council on Health (SCoH) and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC).