

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-166

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: eHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

- a) During the Estimates hearings this month Ms. Huxtable stated in regard to the launch of the PCEHR last year; “We started with a capacity to register from 1 July.” In the light of the inability of anyone to register on line for a device supplied at launch, being a 1-800 number that didn’t work could the witness explain what she meant by that evidence?
- b) How many clinical records have been uploaded to the PCEHR so far?
- c) Dr Mukesh Haikerwal has had an intimate involvement in the development of the PCEHR. He is also a practising GP. Has he had any difficulties uploading any clinical records?
- d) Has he, in fact ever been successful?
- e) How many GP practices have successfully uploaded clinical records to the PCEHR?
- f) Given that if the facts are provided the answers to questions 2-5 may not be all that encouraging on what basis did witness Ms Huxtable also claim in evidence at those estimate hearings, “I would argue that we are really now in a place where we are beginning to see the more comprehensive, I guess, operation of the PCEHR system, not just registration but also clinical use.”?
- g) What is the evidentiary basis for such a claim?
- h) Can you tell me how many E-Health experts, specialists, contractors or workers have signed up for a PCEHR?

Answer:

- a) The personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system became available for consumer registration from 1 July 2012. The 1800 number was operational on the day and several registrations were received.

b) As at 7 May 2013 over 1,250 clinical documents, including shared health summaries and discharge summaries, have been uploaded to the PCEHR. In addition more than 14,600 consumer entered documents such as consumer entered health summaries and advance care directive custodian reports have been uploaded.

c) to d)

The Department of Health and Ageing is not able to report on the clinical activities of individual GPs.

e) As at 7 May 2013, over 1,250 clinical records have been uploaded to the PCEHR system by 2,651 PCEHR registered healthcare organisations, including general practices.

f) to g)

The responses provided to questions b) to e) above are consistent with the response provided by Deputy Secretary Huxtable at the Additional Estimates hearing.

h) No. Information is not gathered on the professions of consumers who have registered for a PCEHR.