

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-558

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT AND THE CONOPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) At the Budget Estimates of May 30, questions were asked about a DOHA/NEHTA eHealth Conference held on November-December 2010. In her evidence, Ms Huxtable, described this conference as, and I quote her "a critical element of the first phase of stakeholder strategy." Why weren't consumer stakeholders involved?
- b) Could you please explain why such a "critical" conference in the 'first phase' of your stakeholder strategy wasn't held earlier in your long history?
- c) In relation to ~~that conference~~ [the Concept of Operations] at the time of Budget Estimates, it was claimed that you have received 11 submissions 'to date'. Who were they from?
- d) Eleven submissions would seem on the face of it to be very small?
- e) When will they be publically available?

Answer:

- a) Several dozen consumer and community representatives attended the National eHealth Conference on 30 November and 1 December 2010. The community and consumer participants represented a cross section of interests, including but not limited to the Consumers' Health Forum, the Australian Privacy Foundation, the Country Women's Association, Cancer Voices Australia and the Chronic Illness Alliance.
- b) The National eHealth Conference was held after the May 2010 budget announcement of the personally controlled electronic health record and a series of stakeholder discussions commenced from July 2010.
- c) At the time of Budget Estimates (30 May 2011) the Department had received submissions from a range of stakeholders including consumers, clinicians, the Information and Communication Technologies Industry and jurisdictions to the draft Concept of Operations. Where consent to publish was provided, submissions on the draft Concept of Operations are available online at www.yourhealth.gov.au

- d) Ms Granger stated on the 30 May 2011, (Hansard CA 76) “We have received 11 submissions so far approximately 2,000 downloads of the document and 3,000 views online. That is approximate,..”. By the closing date of 31 May 2011 the Department had received 127 submissions. Due to this level of interest the closing date for submissions was extended to 7 June 2011. Overall the Department has received 165 submissions.

- e) Where consent to publish was provided, submissions on the draft Concept of Operations have been made progressively available during the period 30 June to 1 August 2011 and are available online at www.yourhealth.gov.au