

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

National eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA)

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30 May 2011

Question: 1

OUTCOME 10.2: eHealth

Topic: eHealth – Strategic Plan

Written Question on Notice

Hansard Page: CA 77

Senator Boyce asked:

Based on NEHTA's 2009-12 Strategic Plan and broken down by year, what has been delivered?

Answer:

Details of NEHTA's achievements against the 2009-12 Strategic Plan are published annually in NEHTA's annual report. A summary of NEHTA's more significant achievements (aligned under NEHTA's Strategic Plan priority areas) includes:

Urgently Develop the Essential Foundation Required to Enable eHealth

Standards

Nationally defined standards, and their adoption within products developed by industry, will help instil confidence that products are fit for purpose and interoperable across healthcare providers.

- 2010 – Revised Standards Catalogue released.
- 2010 – First national guidelines for secure electronic messaging between healthcare providers published by Standards Australia.
- 2010 – Three Australian Technical Specifications (one step prior to becoming a standard) for Secure Messaging published by Standards Australia.
- 2011 – Six Australian Technical Specifications for Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions will be published in July 2011 supporting the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Healthcare Identifiers Service

The HI Service is a national system for uniquely identifying individuals, healthcare providers and the organisations they work for. Healthcare identifiers provide a way for healthcare providers to more accurately match the right records to the person they are treating and improve accuracy when communicating information with other healthcare providers. Healthcare identifiers will be

used by eHealth software and will help to avoid medical mix-ups or one person's information being recorded on another patient's file.

- 1 July 2010 – the HI Service went live, enabled by supporting legislation.
- 2011 – 23,956,590 IHI's, 521,367 HPI-Is and 116 HPI-Os issued (to May 2011).
- 2011 – NATA accredits two test labs for "Testing to the conformance test specifications referenced in the NEHTA published document Healthcare Identifier Software Conformance Assessment Scheme" that enables independent testing of B2B connections with the HI Service.

National Authentication Service for Health

The ability to trust an electronic identity relies on a high quality electronic credential. The NASH will provide this by authenticating healthcare providers based on digital credentials, including digital certificates managed through Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and secured by tokens such as smartcards.

- 2009 – The NASH blueprint was ratified by stakeholders and released.
- 2010 – The tender for the design, build and operate of the NASH was released.
- 2011 – The contract for the design and build for NASH was awarded to IBM.
- 2011 – NASH Root Key Ceremony completed, the first step to producing NASH digital certificates.

National Clinical Terminology & Information Services

Standard clinical terminology enables the words used in clinical communications to be clearly recorded and consistently interpreted. Standard representation of information structure allows clinical terminologies, healthcare identifiers and other information to be used in eHealth applications with consistency and clarity, enabling efficiency and supporting continuity of care of patients across different times, settings and providers.

- 2009 – 80% of medicines utilised across Australia became part of the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) including all pharmaceutical products listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and over 5000 products registered with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- 2009 – The first release of SNOMED CT-AU to Australian licence holders.
- 2010 – The first live implementation of the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) in a clinical environment took place. Box Hill Hospital, part of Eastern Health Services, (one of Melbourne's largest metropolitan health services), started generating prescriptions for outpatients and discharge using AMT.
- 2011 – DOHA PharmBiz system implements AMT to support administration of the PBS

- 2011 – Release of the first new PCEHR / EHLS Wave 1 content specifications for Shared Health Summary, Specialist Letter and Referral Letter Structured Content Specifications (SCS) documents.

National Product Catalogue and e-Procurement

NEHTA operates the National Product Catalogue, a central repository of medical products maintained by suppliers. Improving the supply chain process in Australia's healthcare sector will enhance patient outcomes by ensuring that the right product is available at the right time in the right place.

- 2006 – National Product Catalogue first launched.
- 2010 – GS1Locatenet for Healthcare is launched and provides a central repository enabling the exchange of location information (including Global Location Numbers (GLNs)) between trading partners in the healthcare supply chain sector.
- 2010 – WA Health implemented NEHTA's eProcurement solution and is trading with two large suppliers.
- 2011 – ACT synchronising National Product Catalogue data with the ACT Health Product and Inventory Control System.
- 2011 – Over 200 000 items available in the National Product Catalogue.

Secure Messaging Delivery

NEHTA documents technical specifications and processes to standardise secure electronic data exchange between healthcare providers. This results in common exchange formats and communication protocols to allow a healthcare provider to communicate securely with another healthcare provider, without needing to know what software they use or downloading additional software to 'translate' the messages.

- 2010 – First national guidelines for secure messaging delivery between healthcare providers published by Standards Australia, following NEHTA consultation with the industry on specifications
- 2010 – Software developers demonstrate implementation of standards through IHE 'Connectathon' process.
- 2011 – NATA accredits two labs to perform independent SMD conformance testing.

Security & Access Framework

The SAF documents a common approach to manage information security within healthcare provider organisations. It specifies the way healthcare providers should appropriately collect, access, use and disclose data held within eHealth systems. It acknowledges existing privacy principles, laws and governance that address information handling, and provides guidance to people designing and implementing eHealth systems on the way security and access controls should be operationalised in their systems.

- 2010 – Initial Security and Access Framework released to jurisdictions.
- 2011 – Early adopter jurisdictions providing feedback to inform Release 2 for broader implementation across health sector.

Coordinate the Progression of the Priority eHealth Solutions and Processes

Continuity and Co-ordination of Care – e-Discharge, e-referral, Specialist letters

The electronic exchange of discharge and referral information will improve communication, thus providing the best available clinical information in a consistent and timely manner. Patients requiring ongoing care from a range of providers will benefit as their health information can be better shared, enabling improved planning, treatment and communication by care providers.

- 2009 – Jurisdictional Discharge Summary alignment studies and recommendations for implementation conducted with Queensland Health, NSW Health, Victorian Department of Health, ACT Health, Northern Territory Department of Health and Families.
- 2010 – e-Discharge Summary and e-Referrals specifications published.
- 2010 – Queensland Health implemented standardised e-Referral templates.

Medications Management

E-Medication Management will provide providers with the capability to send and receive standardised prescribing and medication information in a timely and consistent manner to support improvements in the safety and quality of healthcare.

- 2009 – Electronic Transfer of Prescription draft specifications published for stakeholder consultation.
- 2010 – Electronic Transfer of Prescription specifications published.

Accelerate the Adoption of eHealth

Model Healthcare Community and Reference Platform

- 2009 - The Model Healthcare Community was opened in Canberra to demonstrate a working interactive eHealth environment to promote eHealth capabilities, and to support the elicitation of eHealth capability requirements.
- 2010 – Model Healthcare Community moved from Canberra to RACGP offices in Melbourne, with mobile offices displayed in other locations around Australia.

Implementation and Adoption

Implementation Projects which adopt NEHTA products and specifications have been completed or are underway, including:

- In 2009, the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families (NTDHF) developed a Web Services Secure Messaging Application (WSMA) with the assistance of NEHTA.

WSMA's initial deployment sent primary care desktop clinical applications (Communicare & PEN) messages to the Northern Territory Shared Electronic Health Record (SEHR). This project went live in December 2009. WSMA was built to NEHTA's original Clinical Document Delivery specification (CDD). The CDD specification has since been reviewed jointly by the Medical Software Industry Association and NEHTA. The CDD specification has now been modified and finalised as the ATS 5822-2010 - Australian Technical Specification for EHealth Secure Message Delivery (SMD). WSMA version 2, the second phase of this project (as part of the Continuity of Care Project), will upgrade WSMA to conform to the finalised Secure Message Delivery (SMD) specification. It will be integrated into additional clinical applications including the NT Public Hospital systems.

- The Wave 1 and Wave 2 eHealth sites of the PCEHR programme (12 projects in total) are implementing current versions of NEHTA specifications via their software vendors. These include various combinations of capability, including healthcare identifiers, Shared Health Summaries, Referrals, Discharge Summaries, Specialist Letters, Event Summaries, NASH, and implementations of AMT and SNOMED CT-AU.
- Jurisdictional projects to support Wave 1 eHealth Sites have also been defined in Victoria, Qld and NSW. These will establish links to the HI Service as well as sending Discharge Summaries and viewing Health Summaries.
- Following on from the ACT Data Profiling exercise, to determine and maximise match rates with the HI Service, similar exercises are planned for Tasmania, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia. Tasmania has built a B2B interface to the HI Service with the ACT Health interface almost complete.
- South Australia has commenced a project to create and implement a compliant messaging application within SA Health which will deliver eDischarge summaries, including to Northern Territory GPs. NT Health is finalising design of a complementary continuity of care project.
- ACT is using secure messaging to synchronise National Product Catalogue data with the ACT Health Product and Inventory Control System. This involves implementation of the Secure Messaging specification, including the use of CCA processes (both self assessment and formal CCA through test labs) and National Product Catalogue data.
- Victoria has implemented AMT within the Eye and Ear and Box Hill Hospitals. Implementation in Austin and Peninsula health services is also underway.
- The work program in WA has been initiated to implement healthcare identifiers, eDischarge summaries, secure messaging and the electronic medical record (in alignment with the PCEHR).
- NEHTA is working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Queensland Branch and Queensland Health to identify areas of collaboration and support for the RFDS Electronic Medical Record project. NEHTA is working with Queensland Health and the RFDS to ensure that healthcare identifiers, shared health summaries, discharge summaries and clinical terminologies are included in the project.

- The JEDHI project was announced by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel on 9 February 2011, which will be developed in conjunction with Oakton and CSC Australia. Defence identified this project as complementary to the wider national eHealth initiatives underway, in particular the PCEHR. The project is to be implemented in a staged process with an expected completion date of early 2014. The system will provide access to a patient's medical records and health information, will allow the sharing of information with the private and public health sectors and allow the Department of Defence to track healthcare trends and derive financial reports on its healthcare costs.

Lead the progression of eHealth in Australia

As the key organisation developing the solutions and driving adoption amongst the stakeholder groups, NEHTA has an overarching sense of the landscape of e-health, both nationally and internationally. This places NEHTA in a strong position to orchestrate key activities and inform key decisions relating to eHealth in Australia. This strategic priority is closely linked to the "Governance" work stream outlined in the National eHealth Strategy.

Architecture

- 2010 - NEHTA Blueprint v1.0 released which provides the eHealth community with an awareness of the eHealth capabilities being developed by NEHTA.
- 2010 – Interoperability Framework v2.0 released. This Framework provides a nationally recognised set of principles to guide towards interoperable eHealth solutions.
- 2010 – Information Model released promoting a common information model for eHealth.
- 2010 – Solution architecture completed, providing architectures for the NEHTA product set such as healthcare identifiers, NASH, eDischarge summaries, eReferrals, electronic transfer of prescription.
- 2011 – PCEHR architecture completed, including the first draft Concept of Operations describing the high level requirements, business use cases, business scenarios and system architecture for the PCEHR.

Policy and Privacy

- 2008 – A comprehensive examination of privacy issues relating to the healthcare identifiers, including feedback from clinician, consumer and privacy advocate audiences.
- 2009 – The three Privacy Impact Assessments for the HI Service publicly released.
- 2010 – Support to DOHA developing Healthcare Identifiers legislation, including alignment with HI Service technical specifications
- 2010 – A series of workshops and forums for the Medico Legal community were conducted and an ongoing programme of consultations established.
- 2011 – Extensive consultation with consumers, clinicians, vendors and governments on PCEHR design.