

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

National e-Health Transition Authority (NeHTA)

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30 May 2011

Question: 17

OUTCOME 10.2: e-Health

Topic: e-Health - PCEHR

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

When Nehta was recently asked; “How can we be confident that the information in a PCEHR is correct and accurate at the time? The organisations response was less than reassuring saying in part, and I quote, “This is a challenging issue...this is largely dependent on the quality of information provided by healthcare organisations. Experience with shared records in Australia and globally indicate that the quality may be not be high initially...”

Doesn't this answer suggest that haven't yet got the answer and that the whole PCEHR idea is just a very early work in progress?

Answer:

NEHTA's response to the question on data that will be in the PCEHR refers to the quality of information that exists within the healthcare sector today, which will be made available through the PCEHR.

The PCEHR will be dependent on the quality of information created by healthcare providers, which may be of varying quality across the healthcare sector.

People who register for a PCEHR will be able to see their health information in ways not easily accessible to them before. This creates an opportunity for consumers to work in partnership with their healthcare providers to identify poor quality information and improve the quality of their healthcare records, at the source.

Through easier access to health information, the PCEHR is likely to improve the quality of information it holds, and the quality of information held in the sector more broadly, over time, through the process of exposure and review by consumers and clinicians.