

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-108

OUTCOME: 10 - Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: eHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Boyce

Question:

In answers to estimates questions from October 2012 NEHTA has stated that, “an E-Health Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed by the Standing Council on Health at its meeting of November 9, 2012”. In fact, as NEHTA only acknowledged later. The MOU was not signed and not even agreed rather, a communique released after that meeting stated that the Ministers had only “noted progress on the eHealth MOU.”

A recent FOI application seeking a copy of this MOU was rejected as of May 14, 2013 this on the stated grounds that the MOU had yet to be signed by all parties;

“As the MOU is not yet signed by all parties and is considered not to commence until this has happened, the release of the document may pre-empt jurisdictional agreement and may cause damage to relations between the Commonwealth and State (including a Territory)”.

It’s now June where is the MOU at the moment, who has and who hasn’t signed it?

Answer:

All Health Ministers have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and it has been published on the Department of Health and Ageing website.