

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-109

OUTCOME: 10 - Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: eHealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Boyce

Question:

The previous National Partnership Agreement on E-Health, constituting joint commonwealth-state funding arrangements for the National E-Health Transition Authority's work program, expired at the end of June 2012.

As well, a renegotiated e-health funding agreement was identified *as a key priority* for the Health Minister when Ms Plibersek took that role.

- a) Given all that why this inordinate delay, what [it's] is the fundamental problem?
- b) Does this mean that there is currently NO funding agreement between the parties for this purpose?
- c) If so, on what basis is NEHTA's ongoing program being funded, and by whom?
- d) Can NEHTA legally operate in the absence of a binding agreement between the parties?

Answer:

- a) The National Partnership Agreement on eHealth has been replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding that has been signed by all Health Ministers.
- b) and c)
No. The National E-Health Transition Authority's (NeHTA) COAG work program is funded jointly by jurisdictions according to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council cost sharing arrangement.
- d) Individual funding agreements/arrangements between NeHTA and jurisdictions (including the Commonwealth) are in place.