

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
The National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA)
Budget Estimates
June 2013

Subject Outcome: E-Health 10.2

Agency: NEHTA

Issue: NEHTA – Standards/Functionality of the PCEHR

Name of Senator: Sue Boyce

QUESTION: 17

Senator Boyce asked:

How is this happening and how do you propose to remedy the problem?

Answer:

With regards to the specific incident raised in Senate Estimates on 5 June 2013, this was a dispensing error. Prior to the national eHealth record system being in place, the error may never have been visible to the patient in any other way, yet would have been in the pharmacists system and perhaps led to a medication error. The fact that it was visible to the consumer and they saw it on their record meant that it could be picked up.

The goal is to have all parts of the healthcare sector connected. When we have GP systems electronically providing the prescriptions that are connected to the healthcare identifier for the individual all the way through to the pharmacy, and the pharmacy dispenses that, it will take away the possibility that we have pharmacies dispensing from something other than the electronic record.