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: 21

Senator Boyce asked:

Given the safety implications did NEHTA issue any form of warning alert? If not why not?

Answer:

The information provided within the AMT fully describes and accurately identifies medicines. The descriptions listed in the AMT are correct. These are based on current Editorial Rules and accurately describe the products. The major issue relates to the different representation of the order of ingredients within the AMT Medicinal Product and Medicinal Product Pack descriptions which do not match the order on the product packaging. These are generic concepts and are not intended to reflect actual product labeling. Examples exist where different brands of the same set of ingredients have product labels with ingredients in different orders.
The issue or ingredient order for all medicines has been considered on a number of occasions by the AMT Support Group and late in 2012 an alphabetical approach to ingredient order was proposed and agreed. This would then result in descriptions that were clear and consistent. The Support Group is made up of representatives from Pharmaceutical Benefits Division, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, various state health jurisdictions, clinicians, medical software vendors and relevant professional organisations.