

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-148

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: eHEALTH

Hansard Page: CA 107

Senator Furner asked:

Can you explain the benefits in respect of the introduction of the personally controlled electronic records system?

Answer:

A personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system will enable Australians who choose to have an electronic health record to have more confidence in the information available to them and their health care providers. It will help patients experience smoother transitions between health care providers, reducing waste and inefficiency and enable better and safer care that is more responsive to patients' needs.

Patients and consumers will:

- Be able to access their health information, securely, via the internet;
- No longer have to remember every detail of their care history; and
- Be able to choose whether to have an electronic health record and will decide who has access to this information.

Healthcare providers will:

- Based on the patient's consent, be able to access an indexed summary of a patient's specific healthcare events, and a summary view of the patient's medical conditions, medications, allergies, referrals, and immunisations; and
- Boost the quality and safety of patient care, improve healthcare delivery and cut waste and duplication.

Additionally the PCEHR system will provide:

- National standards and infrastructure to ensure better information flows across health care systems;
- Change and adoption tools to ensure providers are able to use the system;
- The ability for other health information systems to integrate;
- Ease of access to information at the point of care;
- improved integration of a patient's care across multiple providers; and
- Improved quality care through access to patient's care needs and interventions.