

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-464

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH - LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Nicola Roxon has recently been attacking privacy advocates and their concerns about the security of the proposed PCEHR. But its Draft Legislation has just been released before the standards and technical specifications that form the basis of its function have been finalised. How can you know the validity or effectiveness of the legislation if it does not include all those things in their final details?

Answer:

The personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) legislation provides the legal framework and authority for the PCEHR system to be established and operate, including its functionality. The specifications and standards have been drafted in parallel with the legislation and review processes have continually refined aspects which support the privacy and legislative intent.