

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-467

OUTCOME 10: Health System 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.

The Infrastructure program announced in August that has a deadline for completion of July 2012 is huge. Singapore, by comparison, servicing just four million people, took four years to do a similar job. How can we possibly believe the deadlines the government has set and their claims that they will meet them?

Answer:

Significant consultation regarding the design of the Australian personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system occurred prior to the engagement of the National Infrastructure Partner, for example the consultation and drafting of the PCEHR Concept of Operations since July 2010.

Although the timeframe for implementation of the PCEHR system is short, the Accenture led consortium demonstrated its experience and capability to deliver the PCEHR system within the short timeframes to an independent tender panel. Accenture also led the program which successfully delivered Singapore's National Electronic Health Record (NEHR) system in 2010-2011. Accenture were awarded the contract in June 2010, with the first phase elements of the NEHR going live on 30 April 2011. This project was delivered within a 12 month period and is considered to be a highly successful implementation.