

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-468

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH - SUPPORT OF THE PERSONALLY CONTROLLED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Can the PCEHR be a success without the fulsome support of the AMA and the RDAA?
- b) What major misgivings do groups like the AMA, the RACGP and the RDAA have about the PCEHR and the ConOps plan?
- c) Wouldn't it be fair to say that, given the state and standard of the present ConOps it's not surprising that key health groups would be failing in their duties to their constituencies and the Australian health consumer if they didn't raise concerns?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing and the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) have ongoing consultation with Australian Medical Association (AMA), Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia to ensure that the feedback of their members is taken into account in the development of the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system.
- b) The Department and NEHTA continue to work with the AMA and other stakeholders in implementing the PCEHR system, including programs to develop ongoing training materials and guidelines. Any opinions from these organisations should be sought directly.
- c) The final version of the Concept of Operations for the PCEHR system, released in September 2011, has been refined in response to the 165 submissions, received from the public, healthcare bodies, consumers, software industry and government organisations. An analysis of key themes from the public consultation process was undertaken and the report published in conjunction with the final version of the Concept of Operations. Appendix C of the Concept of Operations summarises key changes made to address feedback.