

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-470

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH - COMMENTS MADE ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Dr Hambleton of the AMA has also said that the PCEHR proposal could be "de-medicalised" electronic patient health. Information saying "Little has changed from the draft plan despite the sound advice from many medical groups, including the AMA, about what should be included on a patient's health record." Why has there been so little change from the proposal?
- b) Does this mean the suggestions experts have made weren't correct or worth inclusion in the final scheme architecture?

Answer:

- a) The final version of the Concept of Operations for the personally controlled electronic health record (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.
- b) The PCEHR system is designed to provide benefits for health care professionals and consumers, with the personally controlled aspects being an important feature reflecting learning from other electronic health record implementations. The Government considered all feedback provided by the public, healthcare bodies, consumers, software industry and government organisations in developing the PCEHR system. As a result of feedback, the Government changed its policy position in a number of key areas, including emergency access, nominated provider role, expectations on providers in accessing a PCEHR, and use of PCEHR data for clinical research.