

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-472

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH ACCESS CONTROL

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

The AMA says "The opt-in system has resulted in incredibly complex rules for patients to give their doctor's access to their PCEHR. We will have a system that doctors and other health practitioners are keen to embrace but won't be able to because their patients haven't yet given them access to their records."

- a) Isn't this true and if so, doesn't it suggest the system NEHTA has designed simply won't work?
- b) Why would a consumer opt in anyway, if they can't even make appointments under this approach?

Answer:

- a) When a consumer registers with the PCEHR system the default setting will be for healthcare providers to have automatic access and the authority to upload clinical documents where they are providing healthcare to the consumer. It is expected this will be the situation for the majority of consumers. It is only if the consumer wishes to vary or limit healthcare provider access for a particular reason that they will need to set advanced access controls. The registration system is designed to be as simple as possible.
- b) There are significant benefits to motivate consumers to register, particularly the expectation that they can see, provide input to and manage their own records.