

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-477

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH LEGISLATION AND SECURITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

The draft legislation, released for public comment by Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon, states hospitals, GP surgeries and other organisations will be responsible for ensuring the system can identify which individual staff members are accessing records at any given time. How can they be responsible [be] for the security of a system they haven't devised or even seen?

Answer:

The technology is available for local systems to capture individual logins. What will be needed is software /systems that interface securely between the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system and the local system, allowing login information to be communicated to the PCEHR system. This is a key audit requirement to ensure appropriate and authorised access.