

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-482

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH - STANDARDS AND FIT-FOR-PURPOSE SYTEM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Juanita Fernando of Monash University's Mobile Health Research Group agrees local software makers will be unable to bear the cost of developing one standard for Australia and another for the world, while multinationals would not be interested.

“If you look at the off-the-shelf PCEHR system Health bought from a multinational recently, along with the ‘island Australia’ standards issue, one might be forgiven for believing local health authorities are explicitly working against the interests of the domestic software industry”

What is your reply to that claim?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing is working collaboratively with the National E-Health Transition Authority, Standards Australia, the IT-014 Health Informatics community and the software vendors to develop the personally controlled electronic health record system specifications. Where appropriate these specifications are based on existing international standards. In addition the Department funds the development of new Australian standards as well as the participation of Australian representatives at international standards meetings.