

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-484

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH CONTRACT AND TENDERING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

I assume you are aware of the steady roar of criticism directed at NEHTA and its parent DOHA by local industry of their handling of IT and software tendering and contracting? Have there been problems and what have they been?

Answer:

All Department of Health and Ageing tendering and contracting activities and those activities undertaken on its behalf by the National E-Health Transition Authority are developed to meet the Australian Government's procurement guidelines that have been developed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. These guidelines meet the legislative requirements of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Procurement activities undertaken by the Department are open to review by the Department's own internal auditor (reporting to Senior Management) and to external scrutiny by the Commonwealth's independent Auditor – the Australian National Audit Office – which reports openly to Parliament.

The above guidelines also provide for a complaints mechanism and to date no official complaints have been received by the Department.