

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11- 485

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH CONTRACT AND TENDERING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Many people in the Australian software industry are extremely angry at how difficult NEHTA has made it for them to participate competitively in the building of the nations E-Health systems?

Answer:

All Department of Health and Ageing tendering and contracting activities and those activities undertaken on its behalf by NEHTA 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.