

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-486

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH CONTRACT AND TENDERING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

They say many of them haven't got a look-in, that unless you're one of the big ones you don't have a chance? What contract details can you provide to respond to that complaint?

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 meet the Australian Government's procurement guidelines 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.