

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

National e-Health Transition Authority (NeHTA)

Budget Estimates 2011-12, Supplementary Estimates

Question: 11

OUTCOME 10.2: e-Health

Topic: Industry

Senator Boyce asked:

They (the Australian Software Industry) also say that requirements are constantly changed by NEHTA making it a financial disaster for companies who deal with NEHTA? They claim this is also a clear indication that NEHTA doesn't know what it's doing? Why would expert suppliers say this of NEHTA, if it wasn't true from their hands on experience?

Answer:

NEHTA has a close working relationship with the medical software industry, and consults regularly with the industry through a series of regular meetings and workshops.

In order to provide certainty to the industry, NEHTA and DOHA recently released the PCEHR Specifications and Standards Plan, which will:

- Ensure that software developers and implementers will have an agreed set of logical and technical specifications to guide enhancement of their systems in order to participate in the PCEHR System.
- Provide specifications against which production-ready software can be tested for Conformance, Compliance and Accreditation, to be connected to the PCEHR System for 1 July 2012.
- Ensure that the specifications are built using available and applicable existing Standards, and where appropriate, that the specifications will be used to inform the ongoing development and implementation of relevant Australian Standards.
- Inform the scoping, resourcing and prioritisation of the Standards Australia IT-014 Health Informatics work program.
- Where relevant, ensure that the development of specifications for the PCEHR aligns with and facilitates the Standards Australia development process, in such a way that NEHTA, Department of Health and Ageing, Standards Australia and the IT-014 Health Informatics community are clear on roles, responsibilities and deliverables.
- Establish an approach to enable software developers and implementers:
 - To understand how they may participate in the development of the initial and ongoing versions of specifications (and related standards where relevant).
 - To know when and how versions of specifications will be published.
- Support developers in their implementation of the specifications.