Question: 14

OUTCOME 10.2: e-Health

Topic: Industry

Senator Boyce asked:
Another leading industry expert said of NEHTA's plan to fast track standard development with 'tiger teams' would have the following consequences "this truncating or fast-tracking may interfere with the traditional, set-in-cement ISO-driven processes" that ensured standards were subjected to detailed analysis, criticism and due diligence. What is NEHTA's response to this criticism?

Answer:

The PCEHR is being built on existing international and Australian standards. A number of new industry standards, Australian technical specifications and Australian Standards are required to meet the unique characteristics of the PCEHR.

NEHTA engaged in extensive research and conducted an independent study to examine existing standards and advise on the appropriate architecture standards for the PCEHR.

This process is articulated in the PCEHR Specifications & Standards Plan.

The plan that NEHTA has put forward, and is operating to, has been jointly developed with members of the Standards Community, and is based on their recommendations to see a suitable process harmonisation that draws on the strengths of Standards Australia' IT-014 Health Informatics Committee and NEHTA. The plan has also been endorsed by Standards Australia, and will not circumvent the formal Standards Process. In fact it will only service to strengthen it, as NEHTA Managed Specifications contribute significantly to the Standards Process for content contribution and development and also see real world, practical experience and understanding contributed to the Standards Development Process.

The PCEHR Specifications and Standard Plan clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities for NEHTA and the IT-014 community, and is supportive of the Standards Australia Processes. The proposed approach does not "truncate" the process at all.