

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-070

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: NATIONAL EHEALTH TRANSITION AUTHORITY (NEHTA)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

In its mission statement, NEHTA talks of 'working openly, constructively and collaboratively with consumers'. So why does the vast bulk of NEHTA's work focus on stakeholders rather than consumers?

Answer:

Consumers are a key stakeholder group and are a high priority in the implementation of NEHTA's work program. In 2007 NEHTA established a Stakeholders Reference Forum and a range of Reference Groups to seek stakeholder input on the NEHTA work program. Consumer involvement is prevalent across these reference groups. Specific consumer engagement activities are also undertaken on particular projects such as the healthcare identifier and personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) projects.

NEHTA has advised that since the announcement of the PCEHR system in early 2010, consumer representatives have been involved in 39 forums including stakeholder working group meetings and roundtable discussions held to progress design and delivery of the PCEHR system. On 20 January 2011, NEHTA established a Consumer Reference Group to assist with discussions on PCEHR related issues.

In addition to these forums, NEHTA has established a web portal, ehealth collaborate, to allow consumers and other stakeholders to contribute their ideas and feedback.