

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-072

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: NATIONAL EHEALTH TRANSITION AUTHORITY (NEHTA)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) It is true that a delegation of senior NEHTA staff recently flew the United States to study consumer engagement?
- b) How much did that cost?
- c) Surely we have enough culturally appropriate expertise on consumer engagement right here?
- d) In terms of these priorities I mentioned earlier, why has NEHTA waited five years to even investigate consumer engagement?

Answer:

- a) NEHTA has advised the Department that senior NEHTA staff did visit the United States, but not to study consumer engagement.

NEHTA staff were invited to attend meetings in Washington DC on 14-16 February 2011. These meetings involved discussions with US and other international officials on translational medicine, translational health research and approaches to the use of ICT in health care and e-health solutions.

- b) NEHTA has advised that while all costs have not yet been fully finalised the total cost is estimated to be approximately \$36,000.
- c) See Response to a).
- d) NEHTA has not waited five years to investigate consumer engagement. NEHTA has been engaging consistently with consumers on eHealth issues.