

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-555

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: NATIONAL EHEALTH TRANSITION AUTHORITY OUTSOURCING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Why have all the establishment costs of NEHTA, its at \$430 million budget and over 200 staff, to then farm out most of the fundamental work of E-Health Transition?

Answer:

The National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA) has a central role as the Commonwealth's managing agent for contracts with the National Infrastructure Partner (who will build and deploy the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) infrastructure), the Change and Adoption Partner and the Benefits and Evaluation Partner (who will establish an evaluation framework and implement appropriate monitoring arrangements for the PCEHR Program). As the Commonwealth's managing agent, NEHTA will also oversee the implementation and progress of the eHealth sites and ensure they are able to transition to the national PCEHR infrastructure.

NEHTA is also playing a key role in coordinating the development of the high level PCEHR system design and architecture, progressing the key PCEHR system specifications, and are delivering a conformance testing regime to ensure third party software products are PCEHR compliant.

As part of its role in supporting the PCEHR Program, the NEHTA consultation fora, which comprise clinicians, consumers, jurisdictional representatives and the software industry have been engaged regularly to inform the design of the PCEHR system (the draft Concept of Operations), which was developed by NEHTA and released publicly in April 2011.

NEHTA continues to have a broad remit too in regards to the delivery of a suite of eHealth foundation services funded by COAG. This includes Healthcare Identifiers and a National Authentication Service for the health sector.