Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA)

Budget Estimates

June 2013

Subject Outcome: E-Health 10.2

Agency: NEHTA

Issue: NEHTA – Standards/Functionality of the PCEHR

Name of Senator: Sue Boyce

QUESTION: 27

Senator Boyce asked:

Given the importance of transparency in encouraging co-operation, clarity and trust why hasn't NEHTA/DOHA released PCEHR safety Report Part B and the HI Service pre-commissioning safety report?

Answer:

NEHTA's Clinical Safety Unit (CSU) works very closely with the Department of Health and Ageing in its role as System Operator of the PCEHR. This includes participation by NEHTA CSU in key committee processes including review by the Clinical Safety Working Group and Clinical Governance Committees. These Committees provide a forum for the safety assessments presented in the PCEHR Clinical Safety Case Report so they can be thoroughly considered in the development, testing and operations of the PCEHR. The reports are released and shared between forum participants. The Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare have undertaken two of four audits of the safety of the PCEHR and the methods and processes that determine its creation. The clinical safety case reports are a key input to these audits and include findings noting that partner organisations continue to ensure that clinical safety case reports are shared appropriately between agencies and form a basis for ongoing risk management of the PCEHR. This work will ensure that recommended mitigating controls are being acted against and that existing mitigating controls can be evaluated for ongoing effectiveness.