

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-360

OUTCOME 10: HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY AND QUALITY

Topic: EHEALTH

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

In your most recent Annual Report you say the following;

"2011-12 Reference Point: National E-Health standards for electronic transfer of prescriptions completed by June 2012. Result: Substantially met."

"National E-Health standard specifications for electronic transfer of prescriptions required additional input from stakeholders which has delayed publication by Standards Australia. The six draft documents have now been reviewed by the Department and are in an advanced stage of development. The standards are expected to be completed and published early in 2013."

- a) How can you possibly say you have substantially met a deadline of June 2012 when you then say they won't be ready till some unspecified date in 2013? DoHA
- b) What have you been doing to fix this?

Answer:

- a) The drafting of Standards Australia Australian Technical Specifications for the electronic transfer of prescriptions was substantially completed by June 2012. However, the Standards Australia consultation process required to finalise agreed wording for the specifications by all stakeholders has resulted in a delay to the publication date.
- b) The Department of Health and Ageing has been working closely with Standards Australia and stakeholders to ensure specifications are implemented as soon as possible while ensuring that the specification was fit for purpose and that the Government requirements were appropriately met in the new Australian technical specifications.