

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 MAY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Medicare Australia's work on eHealth

Question reference number: HS35

Senator: FIERRAVANTI-WELLS

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 127

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you take on notice how much work Medicare Australia has done since the concept of e-health was first introduced, going back to the previous government as well. Could you take on notice the amount that has been expended on this project to date.

Ms Bird—Certainly.

Answer:

Following the decision of COAG in February 2006 to approve funding for developing and implementing the infrastructure for the Individual Healthcare Identifier, Medicare Australia was selected to scope, develop, build and test Healthcare Identifier program systems. A contract between Medicare Australia and the National E-Health Transition Authority was entered into December 2007.

Work has been undertaken since that time to deliver the systems and to prepare for operating the service. In addition, Medicare Australia undertook work to provide input into the initial development and recent review of the National eHealth Strategy.

As at 31 May 2010, Medicare Australia has spent \$48.7 million in developing the Healthcare Identifier Service.