

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

**Inquiry into Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010 and Healthcare Identifiers
(Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010**

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE HEARING ON 9 MARCH 2010

PROVIDED BY NEHTA

1. You gave us the percentage of GPs who are computerised, for want of a better term. Could we have the full list for all the 10 professions that are covered by the NRAS, please.

The NRAS will register ten healthcare practitioner groups; medical practitioners, chiropractors, nurses and midwives, optometrists, osteopaths, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists psychologists and dentists (which includes dental hygienists, dental prosthetists and dental therapists) from 1 July 2010.

Statistics on the percentages of computerisation across other NRAS groups are not readily available within NEHTA nor the Department of Health and Ageing. However, NEHTA is aware that of the NRAS groups, general practice and pharmacy are among the more highly computerised groups. The other groups would have levels below the 98-100% take-up rates seen in general practice and pharmacies.

2. There have been concerns raised that we do not have at this stage a definition of a healthcare organisation and that it could extend as far as Blue Care, Meals on Wheels and the like. Could you tell me your definition. If the answer is, 'We won't know until we get round to the regulations,' could you tell me what the parameters are and what thinking you have had around that issue in terms of maintaining the integrity of the system.

Clause 5 of the *Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010* includes a broad definition of a healthcare provider.

To establish it falls within this definition, an organisation will need to provide evidence to the HI Service that it is a legal entity and that it employs or contracts one or more individual healthcare providers or sole traders who are employed for the purpose of providing a health service. This process will be supported by regulations as well as guidelines prepared by the Service Operator.