

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000239

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

Was progress on the Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency raised in the context of the recent visit to Australia by the New Zealand Prime Minister, either with the Prime Minister himself, or at officials level? What progress has there been on the joint agency since the last Estimates?

Answer:

There is a renewed focus on harmonisation, deregulation, streamlined market approvals and reducing costs to business in the therapeutics sector.

Work has continued on the alignment of arrangements for therapeutic products between Australia and New Zealand. For example, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Medsafe continue to work on a program of harmonisation activities across six regulatory areas (prescription and over the counter medicines, medicines ingredients, medicines safety, medical devices and biological and blood products) which started in July 2013.

Further information can be found at www.tga.gov.au or www.anztpa.org.au