

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11- 574

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: CONSULTATION WITH WHOLESALERS REGARDING PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME (PBS) REFORM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Perhaps you might be able to tell me about the dates of those meetings and if they were formal meetings (the Senator referring to discussions between the Department and pharmaceutical wholesalers on PBS reform).

Answer:

The following meetings involving senior representatives of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) took place as part of the ongoing consultative process with industry in developing the 2007 *PBS Reform*:

Date	Meeting type	Attendance/comments
17 May 2006	Roundtable discussion with industry	Industry representatives, the Office of the then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, and senior executive officers of the Department of Health and Ageing.
25 May 2006	Meeting/teleconference with NPSA	Senior executive officers of the Department of Health and Ageing.
19 July 2006	Meeting with NPSA (postponed)	A scheduled meeting with the then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, to discuss costings and modelling assumptions of the proposed PBS reforms was postponed at the request of the NPSA
30 November 2006	Meeting with NPSA	The then Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott MP.

The NPSA was also a part of the PBS Reform Stakeholder Reference Group which met during 2007. This group was established as a forum for updating industry stakeholders on implementation progress and for seeking feedback on specific issues relating to PBS Reform.

The following meetings involving senior representatives of the NPSA took place as part of the ongoing consultative process with industry in developing the 2010 *Further PBS Reforms*:

Date	Meeting type	Attendance/comments
18 September 2009	Meeting with NPSA	Senior executive officers of the Department of Health and Ageing
29 January 2010	Meeting with NPSA	Senior executive officers of the Department of Health and Ageing
18 June and 20 July 2010	Price Disclosure Working Group (NPSA member)	This ongoing working group is also represented by the Department, Generic Medicines Industry Association, Medicines Australia and AusBiotech

Other consultation meetings were also held with the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) on 12 May 2009 and 24 September 2009.