

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-084

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Approval for Aboriginal Health Service to supply Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Medicines

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

- a) When will the response to the Recommendation of the Community Affairs Reference Committee be available?
- b) What actions would need to be taken for an AHS being able to obtain an Approval to Supply PBS medicines to its clients using a Section 94 Approval, normally restricted to hospitals? The work of an AHS is more akin to a hospital than a retail pharmacy and should thus be considered more of a 'hospital outpatient function' than have to compete in retail space with a 'community' pharmacy.

Answer:

- a) A response to the committee's Report and Recommendations is being prepared.
- b) For an Aboriginal Health Service (AHS) to be considered for an Approval to Supply Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to its clients using a Section 94 Approval under the *National Health Act 1953*, the AHS would need to be declared as a hospital by the Minister of Health, under Section 121-5(6) of the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*.