

**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:** E12-398

**OUTCOME 3:** Access to Medical Services

**Topic:** PIP Implants

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question:**

According to the budget papers, the rebate for scans for women with PIP implants is listed to end after 2012/13. Is there any scope to extend this scheme, as recommended by various health professionals during the Community Affairs inquiry into these implants?

**Answer:**

Extending Medicare eligibility may be considered for the PIP MRI items beyond 11 March 2013, if further evidence is presented by either the TGA or other international medical groups to indicate that there is an increased health risk to patients with PIP branded breast implants. The Department may also consult with the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) on the safety, effectiveness and seek a cost-effectiveness analysis before considering extending access to the PIP MRI items.