

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: E12-399

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: PIP Implants

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Xenophon

Question:

In his evidence to the committee, the President of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, Associate Professor Rodney Cooter, stated that scans every two years would be suitable. Given the average lifespan of most breast implants (ten years), this would mean only four more sets of scans would need to be carried out. What is the department's position on this?

Answer:

On 12 March 2012, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) items were introduced on to the Medicare Benefit Schedule, for a period of 12 months, to assess the integrity of breast implants known, or suspected, to have been manufactured by the French Company, Poly Implant Prothèses.

The Department would seek advice from 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. There is currently no application before MSAC to introduce MRI scans for the bi-annual review of breast implants.