

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:** E12-008

**OUTCOME 2:** Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Payments to Pharmacists

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 104, 31 May 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

Under the arrangements for PBS reform, pharmacists are paid a premium for dispensing a premium-free brand. Can you tell us the payments to pharmacists under this measure to date by year?

**Answer:**

The Premium Free Dispensing Incentive (PFDI) commenced on 1 August 2008. As at 31 May 2012, total expenditure under the PFDI was \$491.57 million.

Expenditure per financial year since 1 August 2008 is outlined in the table below:

<b>2008-09 *</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12 * (YTD)</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$102,391,838	\$128,162,341	\$135,980,633	\$125,035,182	\$491,569,994

\* 11 months only. YTD=Year to Date 31 May 2012.