

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-221

OUTCOME: 2 – Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Access to Medicines Working Group

Type of Question: Hansard Page 115, 20 November 2013

Senator: Moore

Question:

- a) Is it the Government's intention to retain the Access to Medicines Working Group?
- b) Will there be discussions about when it (reports) will come?

Answer:

- a) In his second reading of the National Health Amendment (Simplified Price Disclosure) Bill 2013 on 21 November 2013, the Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, stated that the Australian Government will work with the pharmaceutical industry to improve the operation of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- b) The last report published by the Access to Medicines Working Group was 'Trends in and Drivers of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Expenditure' which was published on the PBS website on 27 May 2013 and can be found at:
<http://pbs.gov.au/publication/reports/trends-in-and-drivers-of-pbs-expenditure.pdf>