



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Mr Irons  
Chair  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Mr Irons

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Standing Committee on Health,  
Hepatitis C in Australia, Public Hearing, 20 March 2015, Department of Health**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Standing Committee on Health, Hepatitis C in Australia, Public Hearing, Department of Health, Friday 20 March 2015.

Mr Wyatt asked the following:

“What arrangements exist in respect of prisoners by jurisdiction?”

My response was as follows:

“The provision of pharmaceuticals and medical treatment within a prison is state and territory responsibility. PBS medicines are not dispensed in state prisons. The cost of those drugs is met by the state and territory governments themselves.”

The response should have provided the following additional information:

“Notwithstanding these general provisions, the Commonwealth has approved access under provisions within the PBS to the Highly Specialised Drugs Program for prisoners in each state and territory. This recognises the need to provide access to medicines used to treat HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B and C, in particular.”

Yours sincerely

Felicity McNeill  
First Assistant Secretary  
Pharmaceutical Benefits Division

30 April 2015