

Senate Select Committee on Red tape

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Effect of red tape on pharmacy rules

27 November 2017

Question no: 1

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Dastyari

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: It strikes me as odd that in three years there have been three separate reviews into this, and it seems like they all say the same thing. I'm new to health, so maybe this is a common occurrence. Historically, has there been review after review of the locations arrangement, or is this a new thing? The government is entitled to make a decision, and they're quite transparently made a decision not to do that. Has it always been constantly reviewed, or are there more reviews than normal at this particular point in time?

Ms Shakespeare: I'm aware that there have been reviews of the pharmacy location rules over the years. Of the reviews that you refer to, I'm familiar only with the circumstances that led to the King review, the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, which was a commitment the government made in entering into the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement in 2015.

Senator DASTYARI: Is there a chance—only if it's an easy thing to do and isn't going to be a huge burden on you and the department—you could put together a list of all the reviews that have been done of this?

Ms Shakespeare: We can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Health is aware of the following reviews undertaken since 2000 which have included consideration of the Pharmacy Location Rules:

- Warwick Wilkinson, 2000, *National Competition Policy Review of Pharmacy*.
- Australian Government Productivity Commission, 2005, *Review of National Competition Policy Reforms*.
- The Allen Consulting Group, 2005, *Location, Location, Location: Review of the Commonwealth Pharmacy Location Rules*.
- Urbis, 2010, *Review of the Pharmacy Location Rules under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement*.
- Professor Ian Harper, Peter Anderson, Su McCluskey, Michael O'Bryan QC, 2015, *Competition Policy Review: Final Report*.
- Professor Stephen King, Jo Watson, Bill Scott, 2017, *Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation*.
- Productivity Commission, 2017, *Shifting the Dial – 5 Year Productivity Review*.