



## House Health Committee releases report on impotence medications

The House of Representatives Health Committee tabled its report on impotence medications in parliament last night.

The report presents issues which were raised in the roundtable forum which was held in Canberra on Friday 21 August 2009. It canvasses four issues which are of concern to the committee. Broadly these are:

1. The ability of GP's to treat and manage erectile dysfunction (ED) within a primary and preventative health care setting;
2. The inadequacy of the regulations governing the use of extemporaneous compounding or the mixing of pharmaceuticals as a unique treatment for ED for each individual patient;
3. The need to review the use of telemedicine as a first and routine option for doctors prescribing medication or treatment over the phone to previously unknown patients; and
4. The need to integrate commercial ED treatment providers into any proposed e-record system.

The chair of the committee, Mr Steve Georganas MP (Member for Hindmarsh, SA) said "The roundtable discussions touched on a number of significant issues, in terms of the efficacy and adequacy of treatment for ED in Australia. Most importantly the roundtable reinforced the warning that ED is often a symptom of underlying health issues such as high blood pressure and diabetes".

Mr Georganas urged all men suffering ED to visit their GP for a thorough health check up. "This was one of the reasons the committee was uneasy at the use of telemedicine to prescribe treatment for impotence as it limits the ability of a medical practitioner to undertake a complete face-to-face health check. The committee hopes that this report contributes to the debate aimed at improving the health care available to Australian men."

The report is available on the inquiry webpage which can be found at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/impotence/report.htm>. Copies of the report can also be requested by telephoning (02) 6277 4145.

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Steve Georganas, on (08) 8376 9000 (Electorate office).

**For all other information:** please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's inquiry website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/impotence/index.htm>