



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

4 August 2015

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr President

On Wednesday 3 December 2014, the Senate referred the following matter to the Community Affairs References committee for inquiry and report by 26 March 2015.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry are:

The availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia, with particular reference to:

- a. the timing and affordability of access for patients;
- b. the operation of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in relation to such drugs, including the impact of delays in the approvals process for Australian patients;
- c. the impact on the quality of care available to cancer patients; and
- d. any related matters.

The Committee has received 204 submissions, and held a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 20 April 2015.

On 9 February 2015, the Senate granted an extension of time for reporting until **22 May 2015**. On 25 March 2015, the Senate granted an extension of time for reporting until **17 June 2015**. On 17 June 2015, the Senate granted an extension of time for reporting until **4 August 2015**. The Committee wishes to extend this reporting date to 9 September 2015. This would allow the Committee to fully consider its findings and conclude its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Rachel Siewert
Committee Chair