

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-027

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

In relation to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Deferrals Statement of Principles of Commitment between Stakeholders entered into by the government, Medicines Australia, the Generic Medicines Industry Association and the Consumers Health Forum of Australia in October 2011:

- a) How many meetings of the group have been convened by the government?
- b) If so, what steps are being taken based on recommendations of the group?

Answer:

- a) Two.
- b) As foreshadowed in the 30 September 2011 Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) Deferrals Statement of Principles of Commitment between Stakeholders, the joint chairs report was provided to Government on 12 December 2011. The report is currently being considered by the Government.