

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-031

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW (PSR) AGENCY

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Senator Bernardi asked:

Can you detail to me what the penalties are that have been applied to the medical service providers that have been referred to the PSR?

Answer:

There are five sanctions which may be applied following a finding or acknowledgement of inappropriate practice. These are:

1. Reprimand – a written or verbal reprimand given to the practitioner by the Director.
2. Counselling – a verbal exchange of information given to the practitioner about why they were found to have practiced inappropriately.
3. Repayment order – an order for the practitioner to repay Medicare benefits received or caused to be paid as a result of inappropriate practice.
4. Partial / full disqualification from Medicare – a disqualification of up to 3 years from all or some Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items.
5. Disqualification from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – is a disqualification of up to 3 years from prescribing or dispensing PBS items.

A summary of sanctions applied in cases between 1 July 2008 and 31 January 2012 has been provided in the response to Question on Notice E12-032.