

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-125

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: PAIN MANAGEMENT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

The former Minister stated that: "At present there is no consensus that persistent pain should be recognized as a chronic disease". The National Pain Summit, opened by Minister Roxon in March 2010 at Parliament House was led by the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) and the Australian Pain Society (APS). The Summit's 200 delegates represented a wide range of health professionals, consumers, industry and funders and unanimously supported the National Pain Strategy.

Other expert health organizations supporting the call for federal and state government recognition of chronic pain as a chronic disease in its own right include the Faculty of Musculoskeletal Medicine; the ANZ Society of Palliative Medicine; the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine; the Australasian College of Physicians; the College of Psychiatrists; the Australian General Practice Network; the RACGP; the AMA; the Australian Physiotherapy Association; the Australian Psychological Association; the Clinical Oncological Society of Australasia; the College of Nursing.

- a) Why isn't this deemed to be a consensus?
- b) Which medical authorities do not agree with the proposition?

Answer:

- a) The Commonwealth's view is that this is a matter for the clinical community.
- b) It is neither feasible nor appropriate to attempt to compile an exhaustive list of medical authorities who formally do or do not agree with the proposition.