

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-237

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PATENTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Heffernan asked:

What involvement has the Department of Health and Ageing had in the patent litigation between Apotex and Sanofi Aventis?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has no responsibility for intervening in litigation and other commercial matters of private sector companies.

The Department is aware, however, of the case involving clopidogrel which is subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and is taking the necessary action as appropriate in response to the outcome of the court decision.