

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question: E13-005**

**OUTCOME 2:** Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Home Medicines Review Program

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Xenophon

**Question:**

Does the department have any figures on:

- a) How many reviews have been done under this program?
- b) How many of these reviews were conducted in a patient's home and how many outside the home?
- c) How many doctors have made significant numbers of referrals?
- d) What the outcomes of these reviews has been?

**Answer:**

- a) The total number of claims from Home Medicines Review (HMR) service providers across recent financial years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of HMR claims by HMR service providers</b>
2008-09	51,399
2009-10	60,310
2010-11	63,088
2011-12	74,376

- b) From 1 October 2011 (when collection of this data commenced) to 30 September 2012, 18.6 per cent of all claims have indicated that the service was conducted outside of the patient's home. This data is now available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website.
- c) Referral for a HMR is based on the clinical judgement of the general practitioner.

- d) HMR report recommendations based on claims data from 1 October 2011 to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>%</b>
Cessation of one or more medicine	15%
Change of one or more medicine to a different medicine	21%
Increase dose of one or more medicines	14%
Reduction in dose of one or more medicines	19%
Other*	31%

\*An example of 'Other' may include, but is not limited to, a recommendation for follow-up by an alternative Health Professional or other diagnostic recommendation associated with Medication Management.