

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-006

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Home Medicines Review Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Xenophon

Question:

Will there be an independent audit of this program?

Answer:

The Home Medicines Review (HMR) Program will be assessed as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Evaluation Framework, which is publicly available on the Department's website. It will be specifically evaluated as part of the "Combined Review of the Fifth Agreement Medication Management Programs" for which a tender was released on 8 November 2012, and closed on 14 December 2012. It is expected that the evaluation will commence in April 2013.

Furthermore, improved audit and compliance arrangements came into effect from 15 March 2013 as part of a range of amendments to the HMR Program rules to ensure ongoing accountability and service quality.