

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-045

**OUTCOME 2:** Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Myozyme, a life saving drug used to treat Pompe Disease

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

**Senator:** Senator Boyce

**Question:**

Given that people with Pompe Disease who are not on Myozyme are at risk of premature death and/or a severe and rapid deterioration in health, does the department recognise that there is a degree of urgency in assessing the data that is collected?

**Answer:**

For medicines to be included through the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP), evidence must be presented that predicts that a patient's lifespan will be substantially extended as a direct consequence of the use of the medicine. Further information on the criteria for the funding of a medicine through the LSDP is available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website at [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/lscp-criteria](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/lscp-criteria)

The Australian Government does not interfere with or exert influence over the work and decision making process of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Every application from the company has been considered in the standard assessment timeframes for submission as listed on the Department's website.