

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-049

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:

Australia has previously had an excellent record in the treatment of other Lysosomal storage diseases including Fabry, Gaucher, and MPS1, where patients are receiving funding under the Life Saving Drugs Program. These are all the same family of disease as Pompe, it is just that the missing enzyme and organs affected are different. Why have treatments for these diseases been successfully listed under the LSDP, yet Myozyme has not?

Answer:

Each medicine is assessed individually.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) makes recommendations for medicines to be included through the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) based on the criteria for the funding of a medicine on the LSDP at the time of consideration.

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