

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-051

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:

Are you aware that there are currently more than four Australians known to be living with Pompe disease who do not have access to Myozyme treatment because it is not listed as a lifesaving drug?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing is aware that the sponsor of Myozyme, Genzyme, operates a compassionate access program to treat Australian patients with late-onset Pompe disease with Myozyme.

The Australian Government provides funds to each state and territory government to assist with the cost of providing public hospital services. It may be possible for a patient's doctor to make an application to a local public hospital for assistance with the cost of a non-Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listed medicine.