

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-054

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Chemotherapy Drugs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

If the Government has saved \$200 million to date from its expanded and Accelerated Price Disclosure (EAPD) policy on chemotherapy drugs alone – surely it must expect to reinvest part of those savings to make the system viable as this was what the sector was led to believe would happen after all stakeholders signed off on an alternative funding model in 2009?

Answer:

By paying less for older medicines, the Government is able to continue to list cancer medicines. Since 2007, the Government has listed or amended the listing of 31 medicines on the PBS to treat 15 types of cancer at a cost of \$1.3 billion.

From 1 July 2013, the Australian Government is providing interim additional funding of \$60 per infusion for the preparation of PBS chemotherapy medicines. This funding will be in place until 31 December 2013.

During this time a review will be undertaken to identify options for a sustainable funding model for chemotherapy services. The Review will report back to Government by October 2013.