

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-209

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Home Medicines Review

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

Can the Department provide details of what funding arrangements are in place for the QCPP Quality Maintenance Allowance (QMA) incentives, which recognise and support those practices that deliver a range of patient- centred services within the program's quality framework? Can these funds be used to support the Home Medicines Review program?

Answer:

The Quality Maintenance Allowance (QMA) was an allowance that was established under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement, and was paid to Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) accredited pharmacies as an incentive to achieve and maintain compliance with the QCPP Standards. The QMA allowance was ceased from July 2011 due to the introduction of the Pharmacy Practice Incentive Program.

Schedule 1 of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement notes the indicative funding for all professional programs and services for the five-year period of the Agreement. Consistent with practice under the current and previous Agreements, funding indicatively allocated to underspending programs can be redistributed by the Agreement Consultative Committee to overspending programs within the same year.