

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-210

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Home Medicines Review

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In light of recent calls by the Guild to suspend the Home Medicines Review program within community pharmacy settings, how is the Department advancing the recommendations Home Medicines Review Qualitative Research Project? In particular, is the Department investigating the possibility of Home Medicines Reviews led by healthcare professionals such as Aboriginal health workers and nurses, as recommended by the researchers?

Answer:

A number of recommendations following the 2008 Campbell Research & Consulting Report (Campbell Report) were implemented under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

These include the introduction of direct referral in 2011 and the introduction of Medicine Use Reviews (MedsCheck) which is an in-pharmacy service that commenced nationally in July 2012.

In addition, work continues on the development of a hospital referral pathway to a Home Medicines Review in the immediate post-discharge period, which will be introduced in 2013.

The Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia continue to consider recommendations arising from the Campbell Report.