

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-212

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Home Medicines Review

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In alleging the “aggressive business models” are harming the viability of the Home Medicines Review Program, the Guild is indirectly implicating GPs. Has the Department sought advice from peak medical organisations on these claims?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has not sought advice from medical organisations on this matter. Following analysis of claim data and evidence provided by a variety of pharmacy stakeholders, the Department and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have identified the key issues to be:

- Home Medicines Reviews (HMR) being conducted outside of the patient’s home for reasons other than cultural or safety concerns;
- High volumes of HMRs being conducted by some providers in short time frames; and
- Business models where HMR interviews are conducted by a non-accredited pharmacist with the clinical assessment and report write up undertaken by an accredited pharmacist.

There is no evidence to suggest that General Practitioners are major contributors to these practices.