

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-213

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: MedChecks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

The Guild has proposed that MedChecks and Diabetes MedChecks could be drawn upon to address the needs of consumers in relation to medication safety. These services are not collaborative, and occur in the community pharmacy setting rather than the home. The program specific guidelines of the MedChecks and Diabetes MedChecks stipulate that they are not intended to be comprehensive medication reviews. Have these issues been canvassed as part of the Department's recent negotiations with the Guild on the Home Medicines Review Program?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia agree that MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck are not a substitute for a Home Medicines Review (HMR).

A MedsCheck service is a less complex and shorter medication review with a focus on education, transfer of information and self-management. It aims to:

- identify problems that the consumer may be experiencing with their medicines;
- help the consumer learn more about their medicines including how medicines affect medical conditions;
- improve the effective use of medicines by consumers; and
- educate consumers about how to best use and store their medications.

The complementary nature of the MedsCheck service means that it may be a suitable alternative for patients for whom a HMR is not appropriate, but who would still benefit from a less intensive medication management service.