

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000019

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Delisting of Panadol Osteo

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

- a) How has the delisting of Panadol affected its price?
- b) Can you please confirm if you had considered the pack sizing when making the recommendation to delist – I understand there is a discrepancy between the number of pills available on the old PBS listing and what we have now.

Answer:

- a) Prices of over the counter products are not regulated by the Australian Government. They are subject to competition and can vary from pharmacy to pharmacy.
- b) This product was removed from general availability on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme following a recommendation from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). The issue of two packets being provided on a script was specifically brought to the attention of the PBAC in its consideration of this medicine through submissions from the sponsor of the medicine and other interested parties.