

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000024

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Home Medicines Review Programme

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

Back in 1998, the then Federal Government in conjunction with the Pharmacy Guild introduced the MMR programs- the Medication Management Review programs. These include the DMMR – Domiciliary Home Medication Management Review (otherwise known as the HMR- Home Medicines Review Program) for patients living in the community and the RMMR- Residential Medication Management Review Program- for patients in Aged Care Facilities. These programs have allowed closer collaborative relationships between GPs and Pharmacists and patients have benefited tremendously in terms of reducing medication misadventure and hospital admissions.

In an attempt to try and limit expenditure the Pharmacy Guild, in conjunction with the Department of Ageing, introduced a limit or cap of 20 on the number of Home Medicine Reviews an individual Accredited Pharmacist can perform in a month.

a) Can the Department indicate what impact this has had on income streams for accredited pharmacists and whether there has been a knock-on effect to the numbers of accredited pharmacists?

b) Can the Department advise whether the number of DMMR and RMMR programs has lowered as a result?

**Answer:**

a) The Department of Health does not monitor the income of accredited pharmacists providing home medicine reviews (HMR) and/or residential medication management reviews (RMMR). The number of accredited pharmacists grew from 2,314 in 2012-13 to 5,061 in 2013-14 and 4,863 in 2014-15.

As an element of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA), the allocation for HMRs increased from \$10.9 million in 2014 under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement to \$14.5 million in the first year of the 6CPA (2015-16).

b) Yes. Data can be obtained from the Department of Health's Annual Reports at:  
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Annual+Reports-3>