

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ16-000329

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Smallpox Vaccines

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

**Senator:** Abetz, Eric

**Question:**

Has the TGA undertaken any investigations into the third generation of smallpox vaccines currently available on the international pharmaceutical market? If not, does the TGA intend to undertake an investigation into this vaccine? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health maintains a watching brief on medical countermeasures related to smallpox virus, including the reports coming out of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE). The SAGE has issued advice on the different generations of smallpox vaccine and their relative safety and efficacy.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has not received an application for the registration of a third generation small pox vaccine. In the event the TGA does receive an application to register such a good, a review of the required scientific data will be conducted before any decision is made concerning approval or otherwise to register the product on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.