

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000344

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Biosecurity

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Abetz, Eric

Question:

In the case of an emergency would the Department of Health suspend normal bureaucratic procedures to ensure that Australian citizens are protected from the effects of a chemical or biological attack?

Answer:

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ16-000343.

The *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* contains provisions under section 18A to allow for the importation and supply of unregistered therapeutic goods in the event of an emergency so that goods may be stockpiled as quickly as possible in order to create a preparedness to deal with a potential threat to public health that may be caused by a possible future emergency; or so that goods can be made available urgently in Australia in order to deal with an actual threat to public health caused by an emergency that has occurred.