

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000002

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Continuous Glucose Monitoring

Type of Question: Hansard Page 006

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: You are saying that, despite the government going to an election and asking people to vote for it partly on the basis, along with other policies of course, that these devices would be distributed from 1 January 2017, the department has never been made aware of that—and in fact no date has ever been set?

Mr Stuart: I will have to take that on notice. There has been a considerable amount of work going on between the department and other agencies in government, and the government itself, over a period of time since the election on how this will be rolled out—and when and with what product. I will have to take that issue of dates on notice.

Answer:

During the 2016 Election, the Government committed \$54 million over four years to subsidise continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology to assist children and young adults under 21 years of age who face extra challenges managing their type 1 diabetes.

The Department has been working constructively with all stakeholder groups including Diabetes Australia, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the DANII Foundation in a way that delivers the best outcome for patients. Key stakeholder groups such as Diabetes Australia have publically stated they fully support the timing and the approach to program delivery.

It has been important to ensure that this commitment is implemented in consultation with clinical experts. Consultations have occurred with endocrinologists and other diabetes experts to develop clinical guidance around the appropriate and safe use of these devices, and to ensure that children and their parents commence use of the devices following consultation with their endocrinologist or other expert diabetes health care professional to ensure use of CGM within the patients overall clinical management for diabetes.

The January 1 commencement date was used as an assumption by the Treasury in preparing costings for the commitment, and did not form part of the commitment itself.

The program commenced on 1 April 2017.