

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000127

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

**Topic:** Q Fever Vaccine

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

**Senator:** Williams, John

**Question:**

What is the department doing to ensure that Q fever notifications do not rise to the levels that prompted the introduction of the former National Q fever Management Program?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health works with states and territories and Seqirus (the manufacturer of Q fever vaccine), to support awareness of Q fever amongst healthcare providers and the public. Recently, this has included working with state and territory governments, through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, to develop national guidelines for public health units on Q fever. These guidelines are currently under development.

As part of their contract with the Department, Seqirus is required to support healthcare providers and consumers by developing and providing Q fever education, training and disease awareness material. In response to recent interest in Q fever, Seqirus has engaged dedicated staff to improve awareness of Q fever amongst at risk groups.

The Department continues to monitor the incidence of Q fever. In the event of an emergency outbreak, the Australian Government can make the Q fever vaccination and screening test available free to high risk cohorts. The provision to provide the vaccine is outlined in the Designated Vaccine Determination <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00927>