

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000379

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Life Saving Medicines Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Can you please outline the role of PBAC in the Life Saving Medicines Program? Did the role of PBAC change in 2016?

Answer:

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) must consider an application for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of a medicine, and have accepted the medicine as clinically effective, but reject it for PBS listing because it fails to meet the required cost effectiveness criteria.

Then, if the medicine is for an identifiable rare disease, and demonstrates that it extends the lifespan of the patient, it can be considered for funding under the Life Saving Drugs Program. This did not change in 2016