

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000380

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Life Saving Drugs Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) When the LSDP criteria for funding therapies for rare diseases was established by PBAC in July 2012, there was a criteria in section A that - "There is evidence acceptable to the PBAC to predict that a patient's lifespan will be substantially extended as a direct consequence of the use of the drug." The Department of Health website now states that criteria as, "There is evidence to predict that a patient's lifespan will be substantially extended as a direct consequence of the use of the drug. When was the criteria changed?
- b) Were any evaluations ongoing when this criteria was changed?
- c) Do you think it is appropriate to change the criteria while evaluations were ongoing?
- d) Did you consult with stakeholders before this change?
- e) Did you notify stakeholders before this change?
- f) Did you notify companies with ongoing evaluations before this change?

Answer:

- a) The Life Saving Drugs Program content on the website was updated in August 2016, reflecting the need to clarify the role of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee in the program.
- b) and c)
The administrative arrangements for the Life Saving Drugs Program were not changed.
- d) to f)
No consultation or notification was undertaken as there was no change to the Life Saving Drugs Program.