

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-280

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Antimicrobial Resistance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

The Executive Summary of the 1998 Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (JETACAR) report states that while off-label use is a desirable practice to service the animal health of minor animal species, there is a need for appropriate restrictions on antibiotic use to be enforceable in all States and Territories. Legislation relating to the use of veterinary chemical products varies considerably between states and territories allowing differences in application of off label prescribing by veterinarians, which can sometimes be inappropriate. What steps has the Department taken to address this concern? If no steps have been taken, why not?

Answer:

Animal and veterinary use of antimicrobials falls under the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestries (DAFF) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

DAFF has provided the following response:

Proposed harmonisation of state and territory veterinarian prescribing and compounding rights is an element of the current Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) reforms for a single national framework for the regulation of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines. DAFF, in partnership with the states and territories, is developing models under this proposed framework for delivery to COAG by the end of 2012.