

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-003**

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Metal-on-Metal Joint Prostheses

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

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question:**

- a) Has the department commissioned any research into the performance of metal-on-metal joint prostheses, or is it following any of the research being conducted overseas?
- b) What is the department's current position on the safety of metal-on-metal devices?

**Answer:**

- a) The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is following the progress of research on the health effects of ASR implants, being conducted by the Massachusetts General Hospital in the United States of America. The study commenced enrolling patients in March 2013. As of June 2013, 200 Australian patients have been enrolled.

The TGA is also aware of an Australian research study being developed to investigate the possible systemic health effects in patients with metal on metal implants. The study is being run by the Centre for Research Excellence in Post Market Surveillance of Medicines and Medical Devices which operates under National Health and Medical Research Council funding.

- b) The TGA has sought the advice of the Australian Orthopaedics Association (AOA) and the Orthopaedics Expert Working Group (OEWG) that advises the TGA on these matters.

Both the AOA and the OEWG advised that an implant-by-implant review of performance data generated by the National Joint Replacement Registry continues to be the most appropriate way to evaluate the relative performance of orthopedic implants, including those that are of the metal on metal type.