

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-047

OUTCOME: 2 – Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Boyce

Question:

What is the timetable for finalising listing arrangements for those drugs that the PBAC has recommended so that Australians can get access to these new treatments?

Answer:

A positive Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommendation is a very important step in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing process, however, as per usual long standing practice, other steps need to be taken before a listing can be achieved. These steps include:

- pricing negotiations;
- finalisation of the conditions for listing, quality and availability checks; and
- Cabinet consideration (where applicable).

The timeframe for the listing of a medicine on the PBS is dependent on the sponsor of the medicine agreeing to the price and risk share arrangements as recommended by the PBAC (where appropriate), and when there will be adequate stock to supply the medicine in Australia.

Additionally, there are instances where sponsors do not proceed with the PBS listing of a medicine following a PBAC recommendation. For example, abiraterone acetate (Zytiga[®]) was recommended by the PBAC on three occasions before the sponsor company accepted the recommendation.