

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000517

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Listing Approvals

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

**Senator:** Brown, Carol

**Question:**

- a) Page 70 of the Portfolio Budget States that “Since the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook in December 2013 the Government has approved 133 new or amended PBS listings, at an overall cost of \$436.2m over five years....” Could you inform the committee how many of the 133 approvals were amended listings and how many were new listings?
- b) In regards to the new listings only, how many were approved by the Minister for Health as they fell under the \$20m approval, and therefore how many required Cabinet approval?
- c) Of those approved by Cabinet, can the Department provide a list of those medications from highest cost to lowest cost to the PBS over the forward five years so the committee can get an understanding of what medications comprise the cost of \$436m over five years? In doing this, please provide the published cost to the PBS of supplying those medications?

**Answer:**

- a) Of the 133 new or amended Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings approved by the Government since the December Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook to June 2014, there were 41 new listings, 75 amended listings, and 17 price changes.
- b) Since the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the Minister for Health approved 40 of the 41 new PBS listings. Only one medicine, botulinum toxin (Botox) for the treatment of idiopathic overactive bladder, was estimated to cost over the \$20 million threshold.
- c) Of the \$436.2 million cost over 5 years for new and amended PBS listings, \$155.6 million was associated with the cost of botulinum toxin (Botox) for the treatment of idiopathic overactive bladder. This includes a cost of \$106.1 million to the PBS and an additional cost as part of a co-dependent health technology package of \$49.5 million to the Medicare Benefits Scheme for the injection of the medicine by a specialist.