

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000353

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: cohealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

- a) When did DoH contact and meet with cohealth to outline the budget changes that would cease the Alternative Arrangement Transfer to Pharmaceutical Benefits Programme?
- b) Has DoH met with cohealth following the Budget decision? If so, when.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health sent a letter to cohealth on 13 May 2015, outlining the Budget changes. This was followed with telephone conversations within 24 hours. Cohealth has since been offered a contract extension to 31 December 2015.
- b) As noted above, conversation with cohealth began immediately after the Budget. The Department met with the cohealth CEO and Director of Clinical Services on 2 July 2015.