

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000390

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Private Health

**Topic:** Private Health Insurance

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

The Western Australian Department of Health has published the prices it pays for Cardiac Pacemakers and Defibrillators online. It makes for interesting reading, especially when compared with minimum prices listed on the Private Health Insurance - Prostheses List. In respect of the WA Product Information Schedule:

Line 174 of the excel document is for a St Jude Medical Ellipse implantable defibrillator. WA Health pays \$17,000. The Private Health Insurance - Prostheses List price is \$47,880, \$33,880 more than the manufacturer is willing to accept in WA. Why is it that the Prostheses List price is so much higher than that paid elsewhere in Australia? When was this price last benchmarked against domestic and international prices?

**Answer:**

Please refer to response to Question on Notice SQ15-000389.