

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000392

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Were prices for items listed on Private Health Insurance - Prostheses List are higher than prices paid for the same or similar items overseas in same or similar size markets, what are the factors that account for the higher price?

Answer:

The current benefits for prostheses on the Prostheses List were negotiated directly between prostheses sponsors and the private health insurers or the Prostheses and Devices Negotiating Group (later the Negotiating Oversight Committee), or are based on the benefits previously negotiated.

These negotiations were conducted in confidence and the Department is not aware of the factors that account for the benefits negotiated for each prosthesis.

