

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000545

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Rebate for Key Brain Cancer Pathology Tests Recommended by WHO

Type of Question: Hansard Page 50, 29 May 2017

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

Senator GRIFF: The next item I would like to cover off is that I understand there is no Medicare rebate for key brain cancer pathology tests recommended by the WHO. Two tests, in particular, that assess molecular alterations in brain tumours—ID8 sub sequencing test and 1p/19q co-deletion testing—are the tests that they recommend. Does MSAC make reference to WHO classifications when deciding which tests to approve?

Ms Jolly: The Medical Services Advisory Committee has an application-based process, so an application would come forward, that would be considered and a range of evidence would be considered by the committee. I am not sure that those individual tests that you have indicated have come forward. We could take on notice providing some details about that. Certainly, MSAC would consider a range of evidence, and, if other bodies had looked at that sort of testing, that would form part of the information in front of the committee.

Answer:

The Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) is an independent non-statutory committee established by the Australian Government Minister for Health in 1998.

MSAC appraises new medical services proposed for public funding, and provides advice to Government on whether a new medical service should be publicly funded (and if so, its circumstances) on an assessment of its comparative safety, clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and total cost, using the best available evidence.

MSAC and its sub-committees are comprised of members from a wide range of clinical disciplines and from fields of health that include health economics, evidence based health care, health policy, and consumers.

MSAC can make reference to a wide range of evidence in its considerations which may include WHO classifications, or recommendations.