

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000573

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicines Australia

Type of Question: Hansard Page 85, 29 May 2017

Senator: Singh, Lisa

Question:

Mr Stuart: There is a broader government commitment that lies outside of the agreement with Medicines Australia and that it is done in the background of, and the government's agreement is that it will list every medicine that is recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee. So, if the PBAC recommends it, the government has agreed to list it. Either it can draw the offsets required from this reserve or, if the minister wishes, he can bring alternative savings to the table to pay for medicines. But the core asset here for the industry is that every recommendation from the PBAC will be listed by the government from one of those sources.

Senator SINGH: Okay. So is that in the Medicines Australia agreement?

Mr Stuart: No, this is a longstanding government commitment that goes back to pre-election times in 2012.

Ms Shakespeare: It has been there for a long time.

Mr Stuart: Yes, some years.

Ms Shakespeare: There are references to that in the policy in the agreement, and I can draw those to your attention. If you would like, I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Government commitment is referenced in clause 6.1.2 of the Strategic Agreement.

A full copy of the Agreement is available on the Department of Health's website at:
[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/CC4088EE246D44BFCA25811B002759EE/\\$File/Medicines%20Australia%20-%20Strategic%20Agreement.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/CC4088EE246D44BFCA25811B002759EE/$File/Medicines%20Australia%20-%20Strategic%20Agreement.pdf)