

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000623

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Bexsero® Vaccine

Type of Question: Hansard Page 24, 24 May 2017

Senator: Singh, Lisa

Question:

Senator SINGH: I go back to the PBAC. Professor Murphy, when was the last time Bexsero vaccine was considered by the PBAC?

Prof. Murphy: We will take that on notice, but we think it was late 2015. I should point out that the incidence of meningococcal B last year was the lowest it has been in probably 20 years. There were only 92 cases in the whole of Australia, and in fact it has been steadily dropping from a 2001 peak of nearly 300 cases to 92 cases last year despite the absence of a vaccine on the National Immunisation Program. Our actual concern is more about meningococcal W, which has been increasing in recent times and last year was more prevalent than meningococcal B.

Answer:

Bexsero® (multicomponent meningococcal group B vaccine) was last considered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in July 2015, for inclusion on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for the prevention of meningococcal B disease in infants and adolescents. The PBAC did not recommend it for inclusion in the NIP at that time.

The PBAC would welcome a further submission from the sponsor, GlaxoSmithKline Australia, at any time. The Minister cannot add a new vaccine to the NIP without a recommendation from the PBAC.