

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000727

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Pharmacists in GP Practices - Trial

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

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

In 2016 the Department and the Canberra PHN Capital Health Network undertook a trial of pharmacists in GP practices in the ACT.

- a) Is the Department planning to release the full results of this pilot and any evaluation of it? Can this be provided?
- b) Was the evaluation peer reviewed? If so can the Department release any peer review?
- c) Did the pilot have an approved research design?
- d) What is the underpinning cost-effectiveness evaluation that has been used to demonstrate the feasibility and viability or otherwise of this practice model following the pilot?

**Answer:**

Trials undertaken by individual PHNs are commissioned and managed by the PHN. Outcomes can then be shared with the Department, as appropriate.

The ACTPHN advises that peak general practice and pharmaceutical organisations contributed to the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the pilot. The ACTPHN also advises a Reference Committee has been established to guide the progress of the pilot.

The pilot program is expected to be completed in February 2018. The Department understands the ACTPHN has undertaken a contract for an external evaluation of the program, which is ongoing. The Department expects to be involved in discussions with the ACTPHN regarding the outcomes of the evaluation, and the release of the report, on its completion.