

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000972

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Prostheses Pricing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

- a) Does the Department have any liaison / connections with other national health purchasing authorities such as in France, Japan, Germany and the UK?
- b) What savings could be obtained for patients in Australia through better understanding of relevant international reference pricing?

Answer:

- a) Yes, the Department of Health does liaise/connect with other national health purchasing authorities. In the last 12 months, the Department has hosted international delegations, including Singapore, Korea and Japan, to share knowledge and experiences about health technology assessment and medical device pricing and benefits.
- b) International reference pricing is already part of Australian benefit setting policy, when applications to list new medical devices on the Prostheses List are being considered. The Australian Government has requested the Prostheses List Advisory Committee to provide options to reform the way prostheses listing arrangements occur. This includes potential models for a future benefit setting framework that delivers better value for prostheses.