

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000974

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

**Topic:** Immunisation

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

**Senator:** Roberts, Malcolm

**Question:**

Has government mandated immunisation been subject to cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) including the under-stated costs to health & freedom as well as the over-stated benefits in history?

**Answer:**

Immunisation is not mandatory in Australia and parents maintain their right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their children.

In order for a vaccine to be provided free through the National Immunisation Program (NIP), the *National Health Act 1953* requires that it must first be recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).

In making recommendations, the PBAC must assess the cost effectiveness of the proposed vaccination program, including by comparing it to alternative programs such as no vaccination (see section 101 of the *National Health Act 1953*).