

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-013

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

As outlined in the 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements, the National Blood Authority will be seeking independent advice of assessing proposals for new blood products and services. Can the NBA advise the Committee on whether this independent advice has or will be sought for the current tender process; and who is providing that independent advice?

Answer:

- The Department is developing a Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process to assess proposals for funding of new blood products and services. This HTA process will ensure that the Government receives independent advice on funding proposals in a timely manner, and that publicly funded products and services reflect best clinical practice and cost effectiveness.
- A mechanism to seek independent advice through the HTA for new blood products and services is being investigated. Implementation options include the use of existing Departmental HTA structures (such as the Medicare Services Advisory Committee - MSAC, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee - PBAC or the Prostheses List Advisory Committee – PLAC) or to establish a new advisory panel. The proposed implementation framework is expected to be finalised by the end of 2010.