

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-071

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: RU486

Written Question on Notice

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) Does each of the protocols require the routine administration of prophylactic antibiotics after the use of RU486 and misoprostol?
- b) If not, why not, given the fatalities reported from toxic infection following the use of RU486 and misoprostol?
- c) Please provide copies of each of the treatment protocols for the use of RU486 that is currently approved by the TGA.

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) The protocols are developed by the institutions or organisations where the authorised prescribers practice and are approved by an ethics institutional committee. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has received no reports of adverse effects associated with fatal infections in Australia following the use of RU486 and misoprostol.
- c) As indicated in the answer to E10-070, treatment protocols are approved by the relevant institutional ethics committees, not by the TGA.