

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-073

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: RU486

Written Question on Notice

Senator Barnett asked:

The answer to question: E10-081 indicates that a total of 7216 doses of RU486 has been imported by the end of 2009. However, only 2926 patients had been given RU486 by the end of 2009.

- a) Are importers stockpiling RU486?
- b) Are patients given more than one dose of RU486 per abortion?
- c) In particular for South Australia there were 1878 doses of RU486 imported by the end of 2009 but only 317 reported uses of RU486. Please explain this difference.

Answer:

- a) The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is not aware of mifepristone being stockpiled by importers. However, as with other pharmaceuticals, organisations tend to hold stocks in reserve to ensure availability for prescribers.
- b) It is understood that a number of treatment protocols allow the administration of a second dose of mifepristone if required on medical grounds.
- c) The TGA does not hold the information required to answer this question.