

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-087

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS PRICING AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Is the Minister/Government aware that the PBPA Annual Report only captures those medicines that cost more than the patient co-payments of \$31.83 for general patients or \$5.40 for concessional patients?
- b) Is the Minister relying only on data available from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority Annual Report?

Answer:

- a) Yes. The PBPA Annual report is based on Medicare Australia data. The Medicare Australia data captures information about all PBS subsidised medicines dispensed at community pharmacies. These are PBS medicines that are priced above the concessional co-payment threshold (currently \$5.40) and the general co-payment threshold (currently \$33.30).

As agreed with the Pharmacy Guild under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Act 2010*, will allow the collection of the full under-copayment PBS data by Medicare Australia straight from community pharmacies dispensing software from April 2012.

- b) No.