

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-141

OUTCOME 14 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: PANVAX H1N1 VACCINE SHELF LIFE

Hansard Page: CA27-28

Senator Boyce asked:

How did the department become aware this [extension to the vaccine shelf life] would not be happening? Was it in response to the questions you were asked to put or were you in close contact with them [CSL and TGA] to know this?

Answer:

As with all medicines and vaccines registered for use in Australia, it is only the manufacturer who can apply to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for an extension to the shelf life of their pharmaceutical products. The Department has been in continuous contact with CSL regarding the management of the Panvax H1N1 vaccine purchased and roll out of the vaccine program under the existing Influenza Deeds of Agreement. These regular discussions between CSL and the Department have included logistical matters such as the management of expiring vaccine stocks. The Department also made direct inquiries of both CSL and the TGA in response to questions raised in the Budget Estimates hearings, and was advised that no application for extension had been made.