

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-260

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: ONGOING SUPPLY OF GENERIC MEDICINES AND GMIA CONSULTATIONS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What assurances does the Government have that the proposed reforms will not jeopardise access to a stable supply of generic medicines?
- b) What analysis has the Department done to assure the ongoing stability of supply of generic medicines?
- c) Was the Generic Medicines Industry involved in the negotiations for these significant measures to provide savings on the PBS?

Answer:

- a) For a response to this question, please see Question E10-094 (a) (Senator Boyce).
- b) For a response to this question, please see Question E10-094 (b) (Senator Boyce).
- c) GMiA had a number of opportunities to discuss options for reform to the PBS, including with the Minister and senior officials of the Department of Health and Ageing since November 2009 and prior to the Budget in May 2010.

The Department believes that GMiA had a good hearing and the Department has valued the exchange of views. GMiA's views about price disclosure were made clear in these discussions.

An on-going consultative process has been put in place to discuss various aspects of reform. The Price Disclosure Working Group, with representatives from the Department, GMiA, Medicines Australia, AusBiotech and the National Pharmaceutical Services Association has already held discussions on a number of occasions, with the Department maintaining on-going communications with relevant stakeholders on price disclosure implementation.