

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-424

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: CSL

Hansard Page: CA 29

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Is there a relationship between the discolouration in vaccines and febrile convulsions in children?

Answer:

No. The discolouration is a transient phenomenon appearing to arise from precipitation of a component of the vaccine when it is cooled and disappears on warming. The discolouration has only been found in the multidose vials of the pandemic vaccine PANVAX. It does not occur with the seasonal influenza FLUVAX vaccine which is packaged in single dose ampoules. It is the FLUVAX seasonal influenza vaccine that has been linked with an increased rate of febrile convulsions, not the PANVAX pandemic influenza vaccine.