

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 21 October 2011

Question: E11-088

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: CLOSING THE GAP PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME (PBS)
CO-PAYMENT MEASURE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Are NACCHO and the Pharmacy Guild represented on the Departmental Committee that relates to monitoring and evaluation of the PBS co-pay relief measure?
- b) If not, why not? Please elaborate on why NACCHO is not represented given their expertise with the QUMAX program?

Answer:

- a) National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO) was represented on the External Evaluation Reference Group (EERG) that provided advice on the development of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package that includes the PBS Co-Payment Measure. The EERG first met on 22 March 2010 and was discontinued on 30 June 2010 as per its terms of reference.

The Pharmacy Guild and NACCHO were represented on the independent Technical Reference Group (TRG) set up to oversee the implementation of the PBS Co-payment Measure. The TRG remained in operation from 12 June 2009 to 9 May 2011.

- b) The PBS Co-Payment Measure was only a small part of the work of the EERG, whose focus was on the whole of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package. Accordingly, NACCHO was invited to be represented on the EERG recognising its experience with the Indigenous community.