

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-192

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PREMIUM FREE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How many products on the PBS are 'premium free' and attract the \$1.53 incentive? Of these products, how many are protected by patent and/or single brands?

Answer:

As at 1 November 2011, 2,176 brands attract the Premium Free Dispensing Incentive (PFDI).

For all brands that attract the PFDI, there is another equivalent and substitutable brand available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The existence of brand competition is a primary consideration for determining eligibility and as such, there are no single brands that attract the PFDI. Brand competition usually only exists where patents have expired.