

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

Question: E11-281

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: LITERATURE REVIEW OF NALTREXONE IMPLANTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells:

- a) Why was Professor Hulse not asked to review the document at any stage in its preparation or prior to publication?
- b) Why were overseas experts who are heavily quoted in the literature review not asked to review the document at any stage in its preparation or prior to publication?
- c) Why did this literature review not proceed via the NHMRC Research Committee?
- d) Why was Professor Jon Curry, a senior member of the NHMRC Research Committee, who specifically requested to be involved in any review of Naltrexone Implant not involved?
- e) Is it true that the Chair of Research Committee, raised concern with Prof Anderson about this document (i.e. its accuracy) and requested information on why it had bypassed this Research Committee, and information on its authors and reviewers but Prof Anderson did not divulge this information? If so Why?
- f) Is it true that Dr Nikolajs Zeps who is involved with NHMRC Ethics and Integrity also raised concern about this document (i.e. its accuracy) and requested information of its authors, reviewers this information has not been divulged? If so Why?
- g) It is true that these persons had their concerns dismissed by Professor Anderson? Why?

Answer:

- a) It would have been inappropriate and a conflict of interest for Professor Hulse to review the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) literature review given that Professor Hulse's research was cited in the document.
- b) It would have been inappropriate and a conflict of interest to ask overseas experts cited in the NHMRC literature review to review the document.
- c) It is not Research Committee's role to comment on NHMRC literature reviews.

- d) The Senate Community Affairs Committee has previously asked NHMRC to reply to this question. Please refer to the answer NHMRC tabled in response to Question Number E11000117 on 20 October 2011.
- e) The Senate Community Affairs Committee has previously asked NHMRC to reply to this question. Please refer to the answer NHMRC tabled in response to Question Number E11000117 on 20 October 2011.
- f) In June 2011, Dr Nikolajs Zeps requested information about how the literature review was developed and membership of the reference group. In response to Dr Zep's enquiry, supporting information was placed on the website.
- g) No.