

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-339

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PBS DEFERRALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Consumer Health Forum says Cabinet should not be deferring drugs given the government says it will only not defer drugs for twelve months, what is your response to them and how it will impact Australian patients if medicines continue to be deferred?

Answer:

The Government is committed to deliver a sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and better health services for all Australians. On 30 September 2011, the Government announced a commitment with industry and the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) to improve the certainty around the PBS listing process, while working to ensure the PBS remains sustainable.

As part of the 30 September statement of principles of commitment, the Government, industry and the CHF are all committed to identifying ways to manage deferrals into the future.