

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-452

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) The review is being conducted by the former Chair of the PBAC. Can you please outline his role and brief? To whom will he report?
- b) Is it not strange that the person, who has been asked by the government to conduct this review, is the immediate former Chair of the independent expert committee which advised that Pradaxa is safe and cost effective and should be listed on the PBS for at-risk stroke patients?

Answer:

- a) Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO, the former Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), has been commissioned by the Government to review options for improving the health outcomes of patients treated with anticoagulation therapies, as per the agreed Terms of Reference. Professor Sansom will report his findings to the Government through the Minister for Health. The report will also be provided to the PBAC at its July 2012 meeting.
- b) No. Professor Sansom's immediate past experience of the PBAC and its consideration of this drug make him ideally placed to undertake this review.