

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-453

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Pradaxa is a replacement for another anticoagulant that is over 50 years old.

- a) Will the review also be looking at these older medicines?
- b) If the Government is so concerned about optimising current anticoagulant treatments, why has it taken this long to commission a review?
- c) Isn't it strange that the Government has only now ordered a review of old treatments, when there is a new high-cost treatment available?

Answer:

a) Yes.

b) and c)

The commissioning of this particular review is based on the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee from its March 2011 meeting.