

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-461

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PRADAXA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Prime Minister and Health Minister say the PBAC advised that Pradaxa may be overprescribed by doctors and suggest an education campaign is needed. Given the Government has used this as an excuse to defer and delay listing of Pradaxa, does this mean that the Government no longer has faith in the services of the National Prescribing Services, its Quality Use of Medicines agency, even though the government has increased its budget?

Answer:

No. The National Prescribing Service (NPS) provides independent, evidence based information about medicines and is a trusted source of quality use of medicines information. The Australian Government has funded the NPS since 1998 and continues to actively support its strong track record in facilitating the implementation of quality use of medicines programs.