

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000694

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Review - criticisms

Type of Question: Hansard Page 87, 21 October 2015

Senator: Smith, Dean

Question:

Criticisms have been raised about the report. Can you please provide a response to these criticisms:

- a) The data sets were not supported by any verifiable documentation and, accordingly, accuracy cannot be verified;
- b) Only a small number of pharmacies provided data in support of their views; 20 individual sites providing an estimated 35 per cent of all chemotherapy infusions; and
- c) A number of consistency issues between individual data sets provided, with some providing less detail than others and some apparent differences in interpretation of each cost component. A number of data sets appear to be part of group submissions which may impact the weighting of the average cost calculations.

Answer:

a) to c)

The *Review of Funding Arrangements for Chemotherapy Services* (the Review) released a public discussion paper in June 2013 seeking submissions. Thirty submissions were received from sector organisations, consumer groups, medical specialists and commercial compounders. The Review also held twenty-seven bilateral meetings. Stakeholders were encouraged to substantiate their views on appropriate chemotherapy remuneration by providing costing data. A template was provided, so that consistent data could be captured.

20 sites responded to this request, providing 19 useable data sets for analysis. These 20 sites provide an estimated 35 per cent of all chemotherapy infusions.

All stakeholders had the opportunity to provide reliable and verifiable information to the review. The best available information was used in the cost calculations.