

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000714

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Access to Hep C Drugs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Can you describe what will happen if access to PBS for Hep C drugs isn't listed by December this year. I understand doctors are anxious that they will be unable to prescribe a medicine that is known to be more than 95% efficient and the impact of people with hep C being untreated and their impact on the community. Have you done modelling on what this will cost the health system?

Answer:

The Department of Health is negotiating with the sponsors of five new direct acting anti-viral drugs for chronic hepatitis C, that were recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) at its March and July meetings. The listing date will depend on the outcome of the negotiations with these sponsors, and whether the sponsors are willing to accept conditions recommended by the PBAC.