

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency:ACCC

Question: SBT 4335

Topic: Pharmacy chains

Reference: Hansard page no. 28 - 31 October 2014

Senator: Edwards , Sean

Question:

CHAIR: I want to go to pharmacy now. The consumer group Choice tabled their findings in late September on a number of retailers, Chemist Warehouse among them, which found that pharmacy chains may be in breach of the code. I know that other pharmacy chains are all a bit animated and exercised at the moment about what the varying levels of ethical advertising are. Can you give me some outline of whether you have any ongoing investigations into these matters? I know that National Pharmacies have written to you about the practices of misleading or deceptive advertising. I am not sure whether the Pharmacy Guild has. I find the examples that are being presented to me worthy of bringing up with you. Is there somebody here who could take me through that?

Mr Sims: Could we take that on notice? The person who could have handled that question had a little family crisis this morning and is not here.

CHAIR: That is absolutely fine. We all set ourselves a different time, and through the wisdom of the Senate in June—I think on about 25 June—we have gone to this new system that there are no rules. I just wanted to get that on the record again.

Mr Sims: Yes, we shall come back to you.

CHAIR: Perhaps I will put those questions a little more formally to you so that you have better detail of it.

Mr Sims: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Answer:

4335. Please refer to the ACCC's response to question SBT4340-4342