

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Pharmaceutical Transparency) Bill 2013

29 April 2013

Question no: 3

Topic: Development of industry codes of conduct

Hansard Page: 36

Senator Di Natale asked:

“What is the process of developing a code? I am not familiar with the development of industry codes. Do they all just sort of get together in a room and say, ‘We’re all happy with it – the code’s done’? Or is there some official process outside of the ACCC?”

Answer:

The process of the development of industry codes of conduct is the responsibility of individual industry associations and may vary between associations. Published information indicates that the process may include a program of regular review (for example Medicines Australia and the Medical Technology Association of Australia conduct a review no later than every three years); consultation on the review including with members and key stakeholders; and approval by the organisation’s Board and membership.

Industry associations determine whether to apply for authorisation of their code of conduct by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) - see response to Question no 2.

Further information on the process of code development by individual industry associations would need to be obtained directly from those organisations.