

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

26 May 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000305

Question Subject: Medical Abortion via telehealth

Type of Question: Written

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Is medical abortion available via telehealth across Australia?

Answer:

Mifepristone and misoprostol can be prescribed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme under certain circumstances, for the termination of an intra-uterine pregnancy of up to 63 days of gestation.

Telehealth consultations currently funded through Medicare, would apply to an appropriately trained doctor prescribing medical abortion medication for a patient who meets eligibility criteria, and provision of appropriate support via telehealth.

All practitioners delivering telehealth services must ensure that the service provided meets all relevant professional standards and have verifiable arrangements in place to ensure patients receive safe and appropriate care.