

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Hearing into Forced Adoption Policies

28 September 2011

Question no: 001

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: STATE AND TERRITORY RECORDS PRIOR TO 1975

Hansard Page: 30

Senator Siewert asked:

We have been talking about the state records prior to 1975; what about the territories?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing is not aware of any Commonwealth, State or Territory data repositories for pre 1 July 1975 Medical Insurance Organisations or Hospital Insurance Organisations claim records, or of any similar data holdings.

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Question: 002

Topic: NHMRC STUDIES

Hansard Page: 30

Chair asked:

Has NHMRC been asked to fund any studies and knocked those requests back?

Answer:

The NHMRC has been unable to identify any research requests relating to the use of Diethylstilboestrol that have been rejected for funding since 2000.

**Additional Information for Committee**

NHMRC approved a 2005 guideline on *Screening to prevent cervical cancer* produced by the National Cervical Screening Program. NHMRC is not aware of any proposals to update the 2005 guidelines.

The guideline contains a section (9.4, p77) on women exposed to Deithylstilboestrol *in utero*. A copy of the guidelines can be found at:

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/\\_files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/wh39.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/wh39.pdf)

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Question: 005

Topic: WORK DONE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH  
DIETHYLSTILBOESTROL

Hansard Page: 29

Chair asked:

Is the department aware of any work, either funded by the government or privately, that has been done about the potential risks or any increase in illness, cancers et cetera associated with its use as a lactation suppressant?

Answer:

The NHMRC is aware that Professor Alison Venn from the University of Tasmania has published work on diethylstilbestrol and the long term health effects (including lactation).