

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-063

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: AUSTRALIAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) API's has called on the Government and DoHA to supplement the CSO pool in order of 30 million per annum. Is this being considered?
- b) Would it in the Department's view solve the problem API is raising?

Answer:

- a) Under the current (Fifth) Community Pharmacy Agreement, the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Funding Pool to which eligible wholesalers have access has been increased to almost \$950 million over five years, reflecting around a 60 per cent increase in the total level of available funding compared with the pre-PBS reforms funding allocation for the CSO Funding Pool under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement. This increase in funding equates to approximately \$71 million per annum.
- b) The Department cannot comment on the business operation of a pharmaceutical wholesaler.