

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No: SQ15-000142**

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** New Community Pharmacy Agreement

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

1. Can the department provide an update on the progress of the new Community Pharmacy Agreement?
2. How much in savings is the government aiming to claw back from pharmacies in this agreement?
  - a) How does this compare to previous agreements?
  - b) How will this impact on the kind of services pharmacists can provide?

**Answer:**

1. The Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, recently convened a forum with key stakeholders on 12 February 2015 to invite discussions on the future of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), as well as to discuss the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA). Based on that initial meeting, the Minister has invited a wide range of stakeholders to consult further with the Department of Health. To date the Department has met with over 20 PBS stakeholders.

2(a) and (b).

Discussions on the 6CPA are still being progressed with a variety of stakeholders, including the Pharmacy Guild. These discussions will inform consideration of any new agreement, but the specific composition of any new agreement is a matter for Government.