

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000394

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: TGA Drug Warning Labels

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

I have heard that system in which pharmacists are meant to distribute consumer medicine information is failing as very often no leaflets are given to people purchasing medicines. Are you confident in the system?

Answer:

The Australian Government strongly supports the provision of appropriate information about medicines to consumers by pharmacists and pharmacies.

The provision of consumer medicine information (CMI) leaflets is supported by professional practice standards for pharmacists published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and is also by the standards and guidelines for dispensing of medicines established by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

In addition, the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement provides that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and its members recognise that by making a claim for dispensing Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) or Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) medicine to consumers, they acknowledge they have complied with the codes, guidelines, professional practice standards and competency standards established by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Board of Australia, as well as other requirements.

Compliance with professional practice standards for pharmacists is a condition of being a PBS/ RPBS approved pharmacist.

Pharmacists are responsible for meeting requirements to distribute appropriate information about medicines to consumers, which could include the provision of a CMI leaflet.