

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-452

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME DEFERRALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Coonan asked:

Would the Department please outline the number of occasions a government has, in the past, gone against the advice of its own body of pharmaceutical experts and not listed medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme?

Answer:

There have been two prior occasions where the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's positive recommendations to list a new drug on the PBS have not been implemented: nicotine replacement therapy patches in 1994 and sildenafil citrate (Viagra®) in 2002.