

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000317

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

**Topic:** Life Saving Drugs Program

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

The Issues Paper that was released in April 2015 - was that made available to consumers prior to the Consumer Health Forum meetings held in Melbourne and Sydney earlier in April 2015?

**Answer:**

No. The Issues Paper was released on 10 April 2015, whilst the consumer workshops facilitated by the Consumers' Health Forum (CHF) were held on 19 and 24 March 2015 in Melbourne and Sydney, respectively.

CHF sought consumers input on two of the Review of the Life Saving Drugs Programme (LSDP) terms of reference, namely:

- the subsidisation and equity principles of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the LSDP; and
- establishing a framework for data collection on rare diseases in Australia and assessing how this could function internationally.

The report from the CHF workshops was one of the information sources used by the Reference Group leading the review to subsequently develop the Issues Paper.