

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000320

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

**Topic:** Inborn Error of Metabolism

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

People living with Inborn Error of Metabolism (IEM) have been advised by the Department of Health that the IEM food grant (a grant supporting individuals living with this rare metabolic diseases) will finish in December 2015 and will no longer be funded by the government. What is the reason for cutting this grant?

**Answer:**

As part of the 2015-16 Budget measure – Rationalising and Streamlining Health Programmes - the Government planned to cease the Inborn Error of Metabolism (IEM) subsidy on 31 December 2015, based on evidence that was available at the time.

However following consultation with individuals, families and representatives, the Government has been able to draw on additional evidence to warrant the continuation of the programme.