

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000386

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Programme 6.1 of the 2015 Health Portfolio Budget Statement lists affordability of private health insurance as a key goal. It links affordability to the private health insurance rebate and again commits the government to restoring it to a full 30% when fiscal circumstances allow.

Has the Department or the Prostheses List Advisory Committee undertaken any domestic or international benchmarking of prosthesis and medical devices rates in Australia? What were the results?

Answer:

The Department of Health undertook research on prices of prostheses in international markets and compared them with benefits on the Prostheses List in 2014 to inform a draft discussion paper for the Prostheses List Advisory Committee.

The Department looked at available pricing information from France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Germany, United States, United Kingdom and Taiwan.

The research found that the differences between pricing in the international markets and the Prostheses List are variable, but that like-for-like comparisons are difficult due to the range and complexity of health system financing arrangements in overseas jurisdictions.