

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000393

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Private Health

**Topic:** Private Health Insurance

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

- a) If the Australian Government was provided with evidence of Australian's paying much higher prices for prosthesis and medical devices than that paid overseas, even after adjusting for transportation costs and exchange rate differences, would it act on this evidence to reduce the regulated price in Australia.
- b) Is the Department aware that use of foreign reference pricing is commonplace around the world for determining prosthesis prices?
- c) Has the Department investigated the feasibility of foreign reference pricing being implemented in Australia, so as to ensure Australian private health insurers and consumers are not being overcharged?

**Answer:**

- a) The Australian Government is always interested in ensuring the most efficient, effective and sustainable private health insurance sector. Any evidence provided with respect to prostheses prices would therefore be of interest to government.
- b) Yes.
- c) Please refer to response to Question on Notice SQ15-000386.