

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 22 October 2010

Question: E10-423

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PATIENT COMPLIANCE DATA.

Hansard Page: CA 46

Senator Siewert asked:

I will just turn to the PBS, and I appreciate that I am probably getting to a level of technicality such that you may need to take this notice. I accept that. In terms of the PBS medicines used by Aboriginal health organisations through section 100 arrangements, is there data available that shows that patient compliance has improved as a result of these measures? Do you look at that?

I am interested in looking at whether the section 100 arrangements are in fact improving the situation.

Answer:

No data is collected on patient compliance in relation to the Remote Area Aboriginal Health Service Program although the Department does collect program utilisation and expenditure data. Applications to access this data are assessed by the Department. Release of this information requires compliance with the *National Health Act 1953* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, dealing with third party and privacy information.