

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-009

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: HEPATITIS C

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

Are any specific measures being undertaken at the moment to ensure that patients with Hepatitis C get better access to antiviral treatments?

Answer:

The Australian Government through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) funds several different medications to treat Hepatitis C. The most common are anti-viral medications.

In addition, the Department of Health and Ageing funds a number of community based organisations such as Hepatitis Australia to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and promote prevention messages and encourage testing and the uptake of treatment.