

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question: E12-027**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic: TGA – PIP IMPLANTS AND TGA COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator: Senator Xenophon**

**Question:**

Dr Gill said: "If you put information out there for anything where there was a potential issue, you would scare a lot of people where it is not appropriate." This attitude was addressed during the Senate inquiry into PIP breast implants, and the committee was quite critical of the TGA's decision not to provide information on the data it was seeking and discussions it was having with other regulators and related parties. This lack of information led many consumers to believe the TGA was lagging behind other regulators, or that it was 'hiding something'.

- a) Given this, why does the TGA still have this attitude towards communication with the public?
- b) Is this patriarchal attitude appropriate in the age of modern communication?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

As part of the package of reforms announced in December 2011, which sets out a plan for establishing the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as a more efficient and transparent regulator, the Government has committed to improving access to and quality of information in order to increase the transparency and accountability of the TGA. This will involve providing the public with timely access to the information it holds as well as the limitations and context of the information. A recent example is the release of the Database of Adverse Event Notifications.