

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-105

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: REVIEWS

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

For 2011-12:

- a) How many Reviews were undertaken?
- b) Where all reviews have, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d) Did the Government respond to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- e) What was the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- f) For any ongoing reviews, when will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

The term 'review' is fairly broad and ambiguous. In answering this question the Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted it to refer to major policy reviews commissioned at Ministerial level. This answer excludes internal reviews which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes reviews which are conducted as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health and Ageing Portfolio.

Answers to questions a) – f) are outlined in the tables below:

Completed Reviews

A total of six (6) reviews across the health and ageing portfolio were completed in the 2011-12 financial year.				
a) Review title	b) Date of completion	c) Date provided to Govt	d) Govt response received*	e) Est cost (\$)
Mid-Point Implementation Review of the Organ and Tissue Donation Reform Package	31 July 2011	31 July 2011	23 September 2011	149,900 (GST excl)
Review of the <i>Gene Technology Act</i>	24 October 2011	24 October 2011	Whole of Govt response being developed	75,403 (GST incl)

a) Review title	b) Date of completion	c) Date provided to Govt	d) Govt response received*	e) Est cost (\$)
Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) 'Statins' (lipid lowering drugs) review The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) completed assessment in July 2012	PBAC considered the report at its July 2012 meeting.	Advice from the July 2012 meeting was provided to the Minister for her consideration, as part of the usual post-PBAC processes.	Not applicable	approx 500,000 (GST incl)
Review of Authorisation and Clinical Governance Framework for Intravenous Immunoglobulin	Expected completion November 2012	Not yet provided	Not applicable	700,000 (GST incl)
Review of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998	31 August 2012	12 October 2012	Not applicable	150,000 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the Consumer Directed Care (CDC) Initiative	January 2012	The report of this review has been provided to Govt.	Govt included CDC in its <i>Living Longer Living Better</i> package launched on 20 April 2012.	387,549 (GST incl)

* Reviews are considered to belong to Government. The Department is unable to comment on deadlines.

f) Ongoing Reviews

There are four (4) ongoing reviews from the 2011-12 financial year across the health and ageing portfolio.		
Review title	Expected date of completion	Estimated cost (\$)
Review of Health and Medical Research	December 2012	2,650,000 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the National Continence Program	31 May 2014	485,100 (GST incl)
Review of the National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme	April 2013	1,461,974 (GST excl)
Review of Anticoagulation Therapies in Atrial Fibrillation	End 2012	400,000 (GST excl)