

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-194

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: THIRD NATIONAL HEPATITIS C STRATEGY 2010-2013

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) What progress has been made in regards to the *Third National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010-2013*?
- b) Page 10 of the *Third National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010-2013* document lists a goal as reducing the morbidity and mortality caused by Hepatitis C, including "Increase access to clinical care for people with chronic hepatitis C." This includes an indicator of "proportion of people with chronic Hepatitis C dispensed drugs for their infection through the Highly Specialised Drugs (s100) Program in the previous 12 months". How many patients have been treated in the last 12 months? What is the Department doing to increase this?

Answer:

- a) In June 2012, the Department of Health and Ageing engaged David Fowler Consulting to conduct the Mid-term Review of the Implementation Plan of the five National Strategies (the Review).

The purpose of the Review was to examine what had been achieved to date under each National Strategy, determine the priorities still requiring action until the end of June 2013, and identify barriers that may prevent priorities being addressed in the next 12 to 18 months.

The Review has been guided by an agreed set of Terms of Reference and oversight of the review was provided by the Department of Health and Ageing, with input from the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infection Subcommittee (now Standing Committee) of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

It is anticipated that the Report will be finalised in early 2013.

- b) Please refer to answer provided to Question on Notice E12-008 for further information.