

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question:** E12-200

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Antibiotic Prescribing Use

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

"JETACAR progress report March 2003 in response to Recommendation 3 says.." in human medicine activities are under way to improve national data on antibiotic prescribing use. A pharmacy survey will be used to estimate non subsidised prescriptions through community pharmacies...this data should be available from March 2002..once estimates of antibiotic dispensing through community pharmacies have been established the PBS will be in a position to produce annual data on trends on antibiotic use in the community. This data will then be forwarded to EAGAR and CIJIG".

Has this happened? If it has not why not? As EAGAR and CIJIG no longer exist, where is this data sent if it is collected and what is done with it? Is it publicly available?

**Answer:**

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee maintains a database of drugs supplied in the Australian community, and this includes antibiotics.

When the Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (EAGAR) and the Commonwealth Interdepartmental JETACAR Implementation Group (CIJIG) were in existence, the Department of Health and Ageing provided reports on antibiotics from the DUSC database where requested.

The Department currently provides reports on antibiotic usage on request to the National Prescribing Service and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and will also provide reports to the newly formed Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

Statistics on prescriptions, including antibiotics, are publicly available through DUSC's annual publication of the Australian Statistics on Medicines (see pages 111-116 of the 2009 publication for antibiotics usage).