

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-328

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSAC)

Type of Question: Questions on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) How many MSAC assessments actually do go up to the Minister?
- b) How many [MSAC assessments] have been recommended versus not recommended?
- c) Provide some basic time frames for this (MSAC) process and some general information as to how it compares historically.

Answer:

- a) All MSAC assessments are provided to the Minister.
- b) Since 1 January 2011 when MSAC's terms of reference were expanded to give it a role in any change to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), MSAC has provided advice to the Minister in relation to 13 applications in total. Of these, MSAC has supported five for public funding, three were not supported for public funding, two were partially supported, two were MBS item descriptor changes which MSAC supported, and one was deferred pending Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee assessment of the codependent drug application.
- c) Under the processes in place since January 2011, MSAC applications take 12-18 months to proceed through the committee process. Under the previous process, applications to MSAC generally took longer than 18 months.