

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question:** E12-333

**OUTCOME 2:** Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** DEFERRALS STATISTICS

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 109, 17 October 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

How has the deferrals policy impacted on PBS listings going back four years?

**Answer:**

Current policy is that the Government will not defer any Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) or Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority (PBPA) recommendations which cost less than \$10 million in each year over the forward estimates period under the Statement of Principles of Commitment with Medicines Australia, the Generic Medicines Industry Association and the Consumers' Health Forum.

Since the Statement of Commitment was entered into on 30 September 2011, the Government has listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) everything that has received a positive recommendation by the PBAC, and increased all PBS medicines' prices as recommended by the PBPA. This includes the seven medicines and eight price increases that had initially been deferred in February 2011, which precipitated the subsequent Statement of Commitment.

In addition, the Government continues to meet its commitment under the Memorandum of Understanding with the pharmaceutical industry to consider all new PBS listings within six months of prices being agreed.

Since 2007, the Government has approved the listing of over 750 medicines on the PBS at a cost of almost \$5 billion.