

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-382

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ANTIMICROBIAL ISSUES

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In one of the questions on notice from the last estimates there was an answer that the Communicable Diseases Network and the Public Health Laboratory Network were essentially responsible for providing advice on antimicrobial issues. Do you have any specific advice that has been provided by those agencies, and would you be able to table that?

Answer:

Since the dissolution of the Expert Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2007, the Department of Health and Ageing has had access to appropriate expertise through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) and the Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN).

While there has been no specific antimicrobial resistance advice requested of the CDNA or the PHLN and antimicrobial resistance is not a standing agenda item for these committees, antimicrobial resistance is an issue which is broadly considered in the context of communicable disease control and public health microbiology.