

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-384

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: COST OF DRUGS OVER THE FORWARD ESTIMATES

Type of Question: Hansard Page 106, 17 October 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

[**Ms McNeill:** In 2011-12, there were 100 new medicines or extensions to listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which added a net cost of \$545.6 million over five years to the cost of the scheme.

Senator DI NATALE: What was the most expensive?

Ms McNeill: That would have been to Ticagrelor or Brilinta for some people who use the actual brand name. That was over \$100 million.

Senator DI NATALE: Do you have a precise number?

Ms McNeill: It is over \$100 million.

Senator DI NATALE: Over \$100 million?

Ms McNeill: Yes.]

This is a pretty big range. If it is \$101 million or \$102 million, that is fine. But I just want to know if we are talking?

Answer:

The net cost of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing of ticagrelor is \$116.7 million.