

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001253

OUTCOME: 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: Metal-on-Metal Joint Prostheses

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

In the June 2013 Budget Estimates hearings I put questions on notice about Metal-on-Metal Joint Prostheses. I have again recently been contacted by a number of women who have brought to my attention shocking stories of their experiences with MoM devices, in particular the Smith and Nephew Birmingham Hip Resurfacing devices (BHR). Has data from the National Joint Replacement Registry shown trends that the TGA is monitoring with regards to: a) Birmingham Hip Resurfacing Devices b) MoM Joint Prostheses in general?

Answer:

As a class, the Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint Replacement Registry (AOANJRR) data shows that use of Metal-on-Metal (MoM) implants has significantly declined. The AOANJRR continues to monitor each MoM implant that surgeons choose for use to meet individual patient needs. As with the MSA Femoral Stem (SQ14-001249), which was used in MoM implants, regulatory action is taken when the AOANJRR identifies an implant as having higher than anticipated revision rates compared to those of the same type.