

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000419

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** PBS

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 59, 19 October 2016

**Senator:** Reynolds, Linda

**Question:**

Ms Shakespeare: The number of new and improved listings since that time is 1,162.

Senator REYNOLDS: That is 1,162 new listings?

Ms Shakespeare: New or amended PBS listings.

Senator REYNOLDS: What has been the cost of these listings since October 2013?

Ms Shakespeare: The total listing cost of those based on public prices and PBS list prices is \$4.4 billion.

Senator REYNOLDS: So it is 1,162 new and amended listings at \$4.4 billion. How does that compare to the comparable period three years earlier than that?

Ms Shakespeare: I am sorry; I do not have that information.

Senator REYNOLDS: Could you take that on notice. So you do not know how much, but do you have a schedule year by year of how many new listings there have been? Do you have that available?

Ms Shakespeare: We would certainly produce information on the number of new and amended listings each year. We include that sort of information in our annual report. As to whether or not that has been collected on a comparable basis and how far back that goes, we will have to have a look.

Senator REYNOLDS: Could you have a look at that and take it on notice with a view to coming back with the information during the course of the hearing today. I would have thought you would have been able to identify new listings every year.

Ms Shakespeare: We would need to check that in our annual reports. I am not sure that we will be able to do that today.

Senator REYNOLDS: Do you know if the rate has increased? Do you have any sense of trends in the number of new listings year by year?

Ms Shakespeare: I think we would need to check that through the data.

**Answer:**

PBS listings from 2010-11 to 2012-13 from the Department of Health's Annual Reports:

- 2010-11  
*Department of Health and Ageing Annual Report, p 90*
- 2011-12  
*Department of Health and Ageing Annual Report, p 98*
- 2012-13  
*Department of Health and Ageing Annual Report, p 63*