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17 May 2010

Correction to the record

Statement made by the Generic Medicines Industry Association to the to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Public Hearing on consumer access to pharmaceutical benefits held on 7 May 2010

During questions to the witness, Kate Lynch of Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) Senator Fierravanti-Wells stated, "I understand that under the previous government about\$20 million was allocated to assist the generic medicines industry and I understand that the budget allocation under this government has been cut to \$4.3 million dollars. Is that the case?"

The GMiA answered, "That is correct."

GMiA would like to correct the record. The report prepared by the Department of Health and Ageing to Parliament on the National Health Amendment (PBS) Act 2007 "The impact of PBS reforms" of 9 February 2010 provides the following details.

- The PBS reform package announced in November 2006 provided \$20 million for a generic awareness campaign
- This amount was reduced to \$5.1 million in the 2008/09 Federal Budget
- The campaign was delivered by the National Prescribing Service between June 2008 and July 2009.

Kate Lynch **Chief Executive Officer Generic Medicines Industry Association Pty Ltd**