



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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**National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits – Charges) Regulations 2008 –  
consultation draft**

During the Committee's recent inquiry into the National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits – Cost Recovery) Bill 2008 the lack of availability of draft regulations was an issue constantly referred to in evidence and also in the Committee's Report. Although draft regulations were subsequently provided to the Committee this occurred after the report had been finalised.

On 4 September 2008 the Senate referred the draft National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits – Charges) Regulations 2008 to the Committee for a short inquiry, with a reporting date of 2 October 2008. A copy of the draft regulations may be accessed via the inquiry link at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca)

With the opportunity to consider the draft Regulations, the Committee would appreciate receiving written comments relating to the Regulations which should be lodged with the Committee Secretariat, email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) by Friday, 12 September 2008. The Committee intends to hold a short public hearing on Monday, 15 September 2008.

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected.

Further information relating to the inquiry may be located from the Committee's website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca) or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 3515.