

Preface

In conducting the inquiry and in the preparation of this report, the committee considered that its primary role was to gather information to inform Senators about item 16525. The report describes the scope of item 16525 and the data available on the use of this item. The report then provides a discussion of issues in relation to the disallowance of the item raised in evidence by those groups and individuals who supported the continued Medicare funding of the item and those who did not support continued funding or only in very limited circumstances.

The committee has not made any recommendations in relation to the disallowance of item 16525. However, it notes that concerns were expressed over the lack of data on terminations in Australia and the committee has made two recommendations aimed at improving the collection of perinatal and neonatal data.