

2 July 2014

Mr Keir Delaney  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues  
Parliament House, Spring St,  
East Melbourne  
VIC 3002

Dear Mr Delaney,

**Re: Inquiry into community pharmacy in Victoria**

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the public hearing on 25 June 2014. I have reviewed the transcript of the meeting and believe it accurately reflects the discussion and no change is required.

There were a couple of points raised by members of the Committee and I would like to provide additional follow up information for the Committee:

- Ms Millar asked about whether there were data available on the percentage of the public who go first to a pharmacy for preventive medicine (distinguishing from those who are ill) as compared to going to a GP or other health services (on p.28 of the transcript). In response we said we didn't think those data were available and certainly it seems that this is unfortunately the case.

In the AIHW report Australia's Health 2014, released just last week, there is a discussion on the lack of data available. In the feature article contained within the report, Primary health care in Australia (see p.357), the authors comment that there is "little or no information about why someone went to a primary health care professional, what occurred during the consultation, what actions were recommended and taken, and with what outcome and cost" and they recommend that systems be put in place to capture the data in the future (see p.373).

Please see:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129547575>

- Mr Leane asked about the causes of medication-related admissions to hospital. Dr Roberts gave some brief examples and then we had a follow-up question from Mr O'Brien about the breakdown of these and recommendations for how to reduce them (on p. 29 of the transcript). We indicated that this information was available in a report and that we would come back to the Committee with the details.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare released a report last year on Medication Safety in Australia. It is a literature review and contains a section on the different causes of medication-related admissions, from adverse drug reactions to prescribing errors. The second part of the report, Strategies for improving medication safety in the Australian healthcare setting (see p.54) is focused on recommendations for reducing medication misadventure.

Please see:

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Literature-Review-Medication-Safety-in-Australia-2013.pdf>

Hopefully this will be helpful for the Committee's deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Suen  
Branch Director – Victoria