

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Portfolio: Health

Hearing: 8:30am Tuesday 10 June 2025

Witnesses

- Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Health; and
- Jenny Atta, Secretary,
- Naomi Bromley, Acting Deputy Secretary, Hospitals and Health Services,
- Professor Zoe Wainer, Deputy Secretary, Community and Public Health,
- Catherine Rooney, Acting Deputy Secretary, Finance and Support,
- Siva Sivarajah, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitals Victoria,
- Louise McKinlay, Chief Executive Officer, Safer Care Victoria,
- Lance Emerson, Deputy Secretary, eHealth, and
- Julie Walsh, Acting Deputy Secretary, People, Operations, Legal and Regulation, Department of Health.

Legend

All questions are in **red text**.

The responses to the questions, including source details **black text**.

PAEC Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

QUESTION: Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you. Can I ask, since the department has taken over VARTA's regulatory functions – I believe it was 1 January 2025 – how many improvement notices have been issued?

Mary-Anne THOMAS: I do not have that information available.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Are you able to take that on notice?

Mary-Anne THOMAS: Sure.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: If you are doing that, can I also ask for prohibition notices and enforceable undertakings?

Mary-Anne THOMAS: Sure.

SOURCE: Transcript – page 24

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKING QUESTION: Aiv Puglielli

HEARING DATE & TIME: 8:30am Tuesday 10 June 2025

Responsible Division/Agency: POLaR

RESPONSE

Answer:

The department assumed regulatory responsibility for ART from 1 January 2025. There have been no improvement notices, prohibition notices or enforceable undertakings issued to date.

Source Reference: N/A

QUESTION: Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you. Just on the community pharmacist program, I understand that there was an evaluation that was conducted in relation to that program for it to be then made permanent. Can that evaluation be provided to the committee?

Mary-Anne THOMAS: I am happy to take that as a question on notice. There is information in relation to that online, I think, Mr Puglielli.

SOURCE: Transcript – page 23

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKING QUESTION: Aiv Puglielli

HEARING DATE & TIME: 8:30am Tuesday 10 June 2025

Responsible Division/Agency: CPH

RESPONSE

Answer:

- An evaluation of the pilot was conducted, and the findings are available in the public report "Victorian Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot: Summary report on the evaluation findings and the first 12 months of operation".

Source Reference:

[Victorian Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot: Summary report | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/victorian-community-pharmacist-statewide-pilot-summary-report)

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