



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

Ms Shelley Wilkins  
Citizens Commission on Human Rights  
PO Box 6402  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Ms Wilkins

**Your Freedom of Information Request No: 112/0708**

I refer to your letter of 22 February 2008 in which you sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to information on medications subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

I am authorised by the Secretary to grant or deny access to documents under the FOI Act.

**Decision**

I have identified one document in the possession of the Department that satisfies your request. I have decided to release this document in part. My reasons for this decision are set out at Attachment A to this letter. At Attachment B is a schedule identifying the document relevant to your request and the decision taken on access.

**Final Charges**

As you have paid the charges in full, the document is attached to this letter.

For your information, final charges were calculated as \$279.65, the breakdown being:

Search and Retrieval Time	1.45 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$21.75
Extraction of data from computer files	8 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$120.00
Decision Making Time	6.75 hours @ \$20.00 per hour	\$135.00
Copies of documents	9 pages @ 10 cents per page	\$0.90
Postage charges		\$2.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$279.65</b>

## Attachment B.

### SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO FOI REQUEST No. 112/0708

File No.	Document No.	Date of Document	Description of Document	Decision
2008/01 2552	2008/054	17/4/2008	The data in this document was extracted from a database for the purpose of this request. See detailed description below.	Release in part (exempt figures marked with *)

The data to be released are the number of patients who were supplied PBS subsidised scripts from 1/1/2007 to 31/12/2007 for three Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications (Atomoxetine Hydrochloride, Dexamphetamine Sulfate and Methylphenidate Hydrochloride). These data have been summarised differently in each part of the request.

- Part 1 – summarised by patient state, drug name, PBS item code and "form and strength" for patients aged 0-17, with state totals provided for each drug.
- Part 2 - summarised by patient state, drug name for patients aged: < 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-18 and over 18.
- Part 3 – as for part 2, but broken down into the first and second halves of the calendar year.

Some cells in the reports for each of the above parts are marked with an \*. The exemption for these cells is claimed under Section 41 of the FOI Act (see Appendix A for details).

The Department of Health and Ageing has taken every care to ensure the data supplied is accurate but does not warrant that the data is error free and does not accept any liability for errors or omissions in the data.

Number of patients pertaining to Part 1 of FOI 112 - 0708

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) drugs supplied in 2007 (and processed by the end of March 2008)

SCHEME PBS

Number of Patients DRUG	PBS ITEM	FORM & STRENGTH	AGE RANGE	Patient State										National Patient Count	
				ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Unknown			
ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE	9092	Capsule 10mg (base)	0 TO 17 YRS	4	146	*	99	23	10	60	29	*	372		
	9093	Capsule 18mg (base)	0 TO 17 YRS	4	145	*	99	22	5	73	45	*	392		
	9094	Capsule 25mg (base)	0 TO 17 YRS	13	278	*	220	28	20	120	66	*	745		
	9095	Capsule 40mg (base)	0 TO 17 YRS	14	362	*	327	42	16	128	66	*	956		
	9096	Capsule 60mg (base)	0 TO 17 YRS	19	230	*	204	18	11	83	57	*	621		
ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE Total				43	1,076	5	830	116	45	418	300	-	2,839		
DEXAMPHEMINE SULFATE				1165											
DEXAMPHEMINE SULFATE Total				1165											
METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE	2172	Tablet 27mg (extended release)	0 TO 17 YRS	30	1,044	15	303	64	85	387	167	*	2,068		
	2387	Tablet 18mg (extended release)	0 TO 17 YRS	48	2,439	44	948	277	206	1,208	619	*	5,768		
	2388	Tablet 36mg (extended release)	0 TO 17 YRS	204	5,412	98	1,781	421	294	2,216	1,249	*	11,607		
	2432	Tablet 54mg (extended release)	0 TO 17 YRS	193	3,354	48	1,064	232	216	1,421	807	*	7,282		
	8839	Tablet 10mg	0 TO 17 YRS	228	7,598	110	4,046	801	808	3,610	1,327	*	18,355		
METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE Total				587	15,654	243	6,781	1,448	1,189	6,800	3,420	30	35,788		

Note:

Patient counts cannot be added across drugs, items, forms & strengths or states as this may result in multiple counting of patients.

The national patient count is generally less than the sum of the state patient counts because the patients that have moved between states during the period have only been counted once in the national total.

Age is calculated at the end of 2007 (ie. at 31/12/2007) to avoid double counting across age groups.

The Department of Health and Ageing has taken every care to ensure the data supplied is accurate but does not warrant that the data is error free and does not accept any liability for errors or omissions in the data.

\* Exemption claimed under S41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Exempted cells excluded from totals.



**Number of patients pertaining to Part 2 of FOI 112 - 0708**  
 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) drugs supplied in 2007 (and processed by the end of March 2008)

SCHEME	Patient State											National Patient Count			
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Unknown						
Number of Patients															
DRUG	Age range														
ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE	< 2 YRS														
	2 YRS														
	3 YRS														
	4 YRS														
	5 YRS														7
	6 TO 10 YRS	10	363	5	348	43	19	141	71						997
	11 TO 15 YRS	21	487		342	50	21	196	117						1,212
	16 TO 18 YRS		88		127	7	12	38	44						322
	>=19 YRS	5	119		52	11		43	68						301
	Unknown	43	1,076	5	830	116	45	418	300						2,839
ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE Total															
DEXAMPHETAMINE SULFATE	< 2 YRS														
	2 YRS														15
	3 YRS														62
	4 YRS		21		7										209
	5 YRS		59		58	11	15	12	4						4,518
	6 TO 10 YRS	28	1,391	25	1,363	353	239	677	510						7,537
	11 TO 15 YRS	68	2,028	41	1,913	639	290	1,266	1,420						2,409
	16 TO 18 YRS	25	613	11	430	229	79	390	652						10,658
	>=19 YRS	340	2,507	35	1,337	733	178	1,607	4,103						41
	Unknown	461	6,619	112	5,108	1,965	829	3,993	6,702						25,449
DEXAMPHETAMINE SULFATE Total															
METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE	< 2 YRS														
	2 YRS														26
	3 YRS		11		5										121
	4 YRS		47		15	9	6	34	10						452
	5 YRS		200		89	17	15	104	24						12,620
	6 TO 10 YRS	181	5,487	94	2,713	498	474	2,339	975						16,528
	11 TO 15 YRS	285	7,240	115	3,063	866	530	3,143	1,660						4,059
	16 TO 18 YRS	80	1,962	16	547	143	120	729	489						1,952
	>=19 YRS	41	707	12	349	115	44	445	262						30
	Unknown	587	15,654	243	6,781	1,448	1,189	6,800	3,420						35,788
METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE Total															

**Notes**  
 Patient counts cannot be added across drugs, items, forms & strengths or states as this may result in multiple counting of patients.  
 The national patient count is generally less than the sum of the state patient counts because the patients that have moved between states during the period have only been counted once in the national total.  
 Age is calculated at the end of 2007 (ie. at 31/12/2007) to avoid double counting across age groups.  
 If an age group does not appear in the table then there are no patients in that age group.  
 The Department of Health and Ageing has taken every care to ensure the data supplied is accurate but does not warrant that the data is error free and does not accept any liability for errors or omissions in the data.  
 \* Exemption claimed under S41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Exempted cells excluded from totals.

**Number of patients pertaining to Part 3 of FOI 112 - 0708**

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) drugs supplied in 2007 (and processed by the end of March 2008)

SCHEME

Number of Patients	DRUG	Age range	Patient State									National Patient Count	
			ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Unknown		
January to June 2007	DEXAMPHEMAMINE SULFATE	< 2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
		2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
		3 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
		4 YRS	*	7	*	*	*	*	12	8	*	*	33
		5 YRS	*	32	*	37	8	20	32	11	*	*	140
		6 TO 10 YRS	27	1,182	21	1,120	311	224	568	428	*	*	3,853
		11 TO 15 YRS	57	1,855	36	1,705	603	280	1,145	1,329	*	*	6,848
		16 TO 18 YRS	21	542	9	386	211	77	347	577	*	*	2,157
		>=19 YRS	242	1,582	32	1,075	634	155	1,210	3,620	*	*	8,848
		Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	31
		<b>DEXAMPHEMAMINE SULFATE Total</b>		<b>347</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>5,963</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22,010</b>
	METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE	< 2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		3 YRS	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		4 YRS	*	18	*	*	*	*	15	4	*	*	
		5 YRS	*	104	5	43	5	6	57	15	*	*	
		6 TO 10 YRS	103	3,739	64	1,723	312	298	1,588	580	*	*	
		11 TO 15 YRS	161	4,694	76	2,028	437	376	2,176	1,078	*	*	
		16 TO 18 YRS	41	1,258	12	377	105	83	527	322	*	*	
		>=19 YRS	30	498	9	227	87	32	309	203	*	*	
		Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12
	<b>METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE Total</b>		<b>335</b>	<b>10,316</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>4,672</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23,745</b>	
July to December 2007	ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE	< 2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		3 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		4 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		5 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	
		6 TO 10 YRS	10	363	5	348	43	19	141	71	*	*	
		11 TO 15 YRS	21	467	*	342	50	21	196	117	*	*	
		16 TO 18 YRS	7	127	*	88	12	5	38	44	*	*	
		>=19 YRS	5	119	*	52	11	*	43	68	*	*	
		Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-
	<b>ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE Total</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,839</b>	
	DEXAMPHEMAMINE SULFATE	< 2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	4	5	*	*	
		3 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	10	*	*	
		4 YRS	*	17	*	5	*	9	23	30	11	*	
		5 YRS	*	45	*	44	9	23	30	11	*	*	
		6 TO 10 YRS	18	1,058	16	1,084	284	191	508	400	*	*	
		11 TO 15 YRS	51	1,429	21	1,501	468	202	864	1,088	*	*	
		16 TO 18 YRS	14	394	7	280	151	57	256	459	*	*	
		>=19 YRS	264	2,058	22	1,069	602	147	1,312	3,356	*	*	
		Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	19
	<b>DEXAMPHEMAMINE SULFATE Total</b>		<b>347</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>2,985</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19,698</b>	
	METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE	< 2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		2 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
		3 YRS	*	9	*	4	*	*	5	*	*	*	
		4 YRS	*	39	*	13	9	5	29	8	*	*	
		5 YRS	*	178	4	78	15	13	89	18	*	*	
		6 TO 10 YRS	164	4,973	77	2,430	449	439	2,123	887	*	*	
		11 TO 15 YRS	266	6,675	99	2,747	604	472	2,857	1,504	*	*	
		16 TO 18 YRS	75	1,748	13	449	117	105	607	412	*	*	
		>=19 YRS	29	550	10	254	88	34	342	171	*	*	
		Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	22
	<b>METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE Total</b>		<b>534</b>	<b>14,172</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>6,062</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32,103</b>	

**Note:**

Patient counts cannot be added across drugs, time periods or states as this may result in multiple counting of patients.

The national patient count is generally less than the sum of the state patient counts because the patients that have moved between states during the period have only been counted once in the national total.

Age is calculated at the end of 2007 (ie. at 31/12/2007) to avoid double counting across age groups.

Atomoxetine Hydrochloride was listed on the PBS in July 2007.

Caution must be exercised when comparing the first with the second half of a calendar year. Even if utilisation were constant throughout the year, one would expect to see increasing numbers of PBS patients as they qualify for the PBS Safety Net, which operates on a calendar year basis. This is because many of the ADHD PBS items are less than the General Patient Co-payment (\$30.70 in 2007) and patients only receive a PBS subsidy if the item cost is more than the Co-payment.

When general patients qualify for the Safety Net they pay the concessional copayment (\$4.90 in 2007) for subsequent scripts, which are all PBS subsidised as they all cost more than \$4.90.

Hence the number of patients with PBS subsidised scripts in the second half of the calendar year is generally greater than in the first half.

The Department of Health and Ageing has taken every care to ensure the data supplied is accurate but does not warrant that the data is error free and does not accept any liability for errors or omissions in the data.

\* Exemption claimed under S41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Exempted cells excluded from totals.