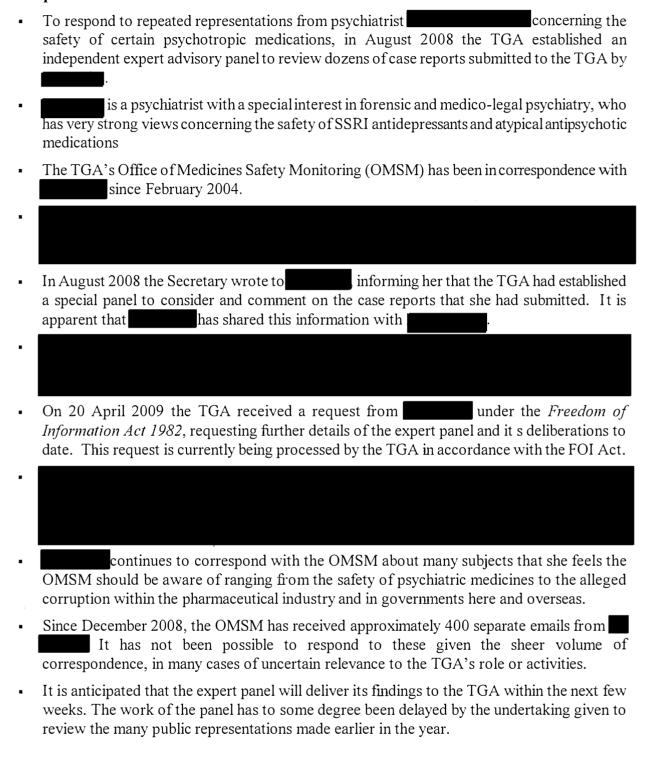
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REVIEW OF SAFETY OF CERTAIN ANTIPSYCHOTIC AND ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICINES

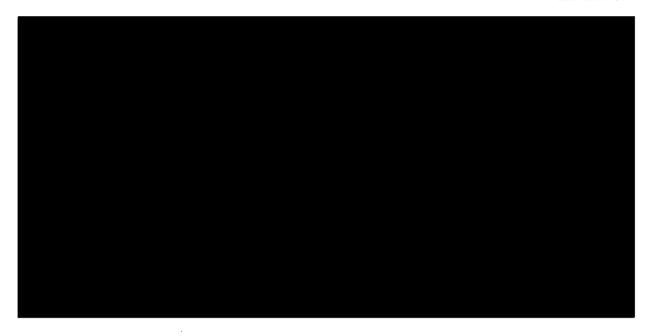
Response:



Background

concerning the safety of certain psychotropic medications, in August 2008 the TGA established an
independent expert advisory panel to review dozens of case reports submitted to the TGA by
is a psychiatrist with a special interest in forensic and medico-legal psychiatry, who has
very strong views concerning the safety of SSRI antidepressants and atypical antipsychotic
medications. From her frequent correspondence it may be inferred that she believes the risks of
the use of these medicines outweigh the potential benefits for many patients, either when used
alone or in combination with other psychotropic medications. She has been particularly concerned
about a particular side effect known as akathisia, a condition of motor restlessness which appears
to occur more commonly with SSRIs than other antidepressants, and that akathisia may lead to
suicidal behaviour and violence.
In August 2008 the Secretary wrote to
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Division:

Therapeutic Goods Administratio

Cleared by: Contact Officer:

Phone:

(w) (h) (mob)

Date:

Outcome:

1: POPULATION HEALTH AND SAFETY