Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann
Acting Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing

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ADHD – Roxon sitting on guidelines

Health Minister Nicola Roxon must explain why guidelines for the use of powerful drugs for the treatment of ADHD remain unavailable two years after a review was initiated by the former Federal Government.

Acting Shadow Health Minister Senator Mathias Cormann questioned why after two years in office the Rudd Labor Government had failed to implement new clinical guidelines for ADHD.

Senator Cormann said media reports today that up to 30 Australian children being treated for ADHD had had severe psychotic episodes and had wanted to kill themselves were very concerning.

The former Coalition Government initiated a review of guidelines for the use of drugs in treating ADHD in 2007 and it was to have been finalised late that year.

“At the time Ms Roxon was highly critical of the Howard Government, but now two years later, she has failed to produce any guidelines,” Senator Cormann said.

“What has this Minister been doing?”

Minister Roxon reportedly asked the National Health and Medical Research Council to upgrade guidelines at the start of 2008, Senator Cormann said.

“We’re now nearing the end of the 2009 and nothing apparently has happened.”

“Minister Roxon must explain what she has been doing and why after two years in Government that is the case,” Senator Cormann said.

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