



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**  
**Therapeutic Goods Administration**

# Minute

## Secretary Department of Health and Ageing

You have requested information concerning [REDACTED] The last brief provided to you concerning [REDACTED] was in November 2004.

- [REDACTED] is a psychiatrist with a special interest in forensic and medico-legal psychiatry.
- [REDACTED] has very strong views concerning the safety of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants and atypical antipsychotic medications. From her correspondence it is inferred that she thinks that the risk of use of these medicines outweighs any benefit patients may obtain, either when used alone or in combination with other psychotropic medication.
- She has been particularly concerned about the adverse effect of akathisia, a condition of motor restlessness. Her concern was that akathisia led to the suicidal behaviours and violence.
- The Adverse Drug Reactions Unit, Therapeutic Goods Administration has had detailed correspondence with [REDACTED] since February 2004.
- The TGA issued a statement concerning the safety of SSRI antidepressants in children and adolescents March 2004. Updates were issued in June and October 2004. The Product Informations and Consumer Medicines Informations for SSRIs were updated to include information about suicide risk and hostility (aggressiveness) in individuals taking these medications.



