

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000093

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Research into Nanomaterials in Packaging

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert Rachel

Question:

- a) Has FSANZ undertaken or commissioned research to determine whether nanomaterials in food contact materials can or do migrate into food?
- b) If yes to (a) what research has been done and what were the findings?

Answer:

- a) Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has not undertaken or commissioned research to determine whether nanomaterials in food contact materials can migrate into food.

FSANZ is aware that some commercial applications of nanomaterials in food packaging have been assessed in other countries. For instance, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) evaluated titanium nitride particles intended to be used as an additive in polyethylene terephthalate bottles. EFSA concluded that as no titanium migrated from the packaging there was no exposure via food, and as such no health concern.

- b) Not applicable.