

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000158

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Testing Results for Imported Raspberries

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Xenophon Nick

**Question:**

In December last year, tests by Today Tonight revealed banned chemicals in imported frozen raspberries. The majority of frozen raspberries in the supermarkets come from Chile or China, both countries without strict chemical regulations.

Has FSANZ been made aware of results of independent investigations by Coles and Woolworths? Today Tonight found that a number of brands contained traces of a number of fungicides and pesticides, some of which are banned here in Australia for agricultural use due to their carcinogenic effects on the human body.

**Answer:**

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has responded to inquiries about maximum residue limits in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) for various chemicals used on berries, including raspberries. However, FSANZ has not specifically been made aware of the results of investigations undertaken by Coles and Woolworths. Such results would normally be provided to state and territory enforcement agencies rather than FSANZ, which is a standards development agency responsible for administration of the Code.