

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000247

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Advisory Panel on the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

What other initiatives are currently occurring as part of Australia's response to the WHO Code on Breast Milk Substitutes?

Answer:

Australia implements the World Health Organization Code through adherence to the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula (MAIF) Agreement and through the following mechanisms:

- National Breastfeeding Strategy 2010-2015 - The Strategy provides a framework for priorities and action for Australian governments at all levels.
- Mandatory Labelling and Composition provisions for infant formula, consistent with the WHO CODE - Food Standards Australia New Zealand is currently reviewing Standard 2.9.1 – Infant Formula Products and other standards relating to infant formula. Products included are infant formula (for infants aged 0 to 12 months); follow-on formula (for infants aged from 6 to 12 months); and infant formula products for special dietary use.
- The 2012 Infant Feeding Guidelines - Information for Health Workers - Provides health workers (midwives, lactation consultants, maternal and child health nurses, community health nurses, GPs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and allied health professionals) with information and advice for supporting optimum infant nutrition.