

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-318

OUTCOME 10: Population Health

Topic: Draft Australian Dietary Guidelines 2011

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

I understand that where there are two opposing views in an area, the NHMRC reverts to the evidence in the systematic literature review (SLR). What happens when a SLR has not been conducted as in the case of the proposed trans fat guideline, given that no review was undertaken?

Answer:

In addition to using a systematic literature review answering 15 scientific questions, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Dietary Guidelines Working Committee (the Committee) accessed evidence from the following sources:

- the previous *Dietary Guidelines for Australians* series, where the evidence was deemed not to have changed;
- NHMRC and New Zealand Ministry of Health *Nutrient reference values for Australia and New Zealand including recommended dietary intakes* (2006);
- a commissioned report: *A Modelling System to inform the revision of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating* (2011);
- key authoritative government reports;
- a commissioned literature review on pregnant and breastfeeding women; and
- additional literature provided by members of the Committee and by those providing a public submission on the draft Dietary Guidelines. This literature met agreed criteria detailed in the response provided to E12-319.