

**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:** E12-320

**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:**

A recent report indicates that the NHMRC peer review process has been compromised by the selection of an expert with a documented bias against the issue of contention, in this case concern about the health impact of wind farms. Professor Anderson confirmed that a peer review of the revised draft Australian dietary guidelines by national and international experts will be conducted. How will the reviewers be selected? Will this selection process include and assessment of any perceived bias of the reviewers?

**Answer:**

With regard to the Australian Dietary Guidelines, peer reviewers were nominated by the Dietary Guidelines Working Committee and a member of the Council of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The list was provided to the Council of NHMRC.

Reviewers' perceived and real conflicts of interest will be appropriately managed, with the Office of NHMRC having sought formal disclosure at the outset of the review. Should concerns be identified, the NHMRC Chief Executive Officer can decide not to accept the review. The reviewers' disclosures of potential conflicts of interest will be made publicly available on the NHMRC website.