

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013**

**Question: E13-159**

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Front of Pack Labelling Technical Advice

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

**Senator:** McLucas

**Question:**

- a) What technical advice was FSANZ asked to provide on the outstanding elements of the 'star rating' front-of-pack labelling system?
- b) When was this advice provided?
- c) Has FSANZ received any follow up requests for advice on this system or have the technical considerations reached their conclusion?

**Answer:**

- a) Since September 2012, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has assisted the Front of Pack Labelling Technical Design Working Group in developing an algorithm for assigning a health star rating (HSR) to individual (packaged) food products. FSANZ has also assisted with the development of a draft user guide for industry on calculating an HSR and provided input to a draft HSR Style Guide.
- b) This technical work was completed in mid-November 2013.
- c) FSANZ has continued to provide technical assistance on the algorithm, when required, following the targeted consultation on the HSR system that occurred in late November 2013.