

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-178

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Front-of-Package Labelling

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McKenzie

Question:

If some companies adopt the labelling system in a category (e.g. One brand of bread is labelled, but another is not), will the companies that have not labelled their packaging be forced to do so?

Answer:

The Health Star Rating (HSR) System is a voluntary system under an industry code of practice. Under these arrangements, no companies will be forced to adopt the HSR System.

The Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation decided at its June 2013 meeting that if, following evaluation after two years, a voluntary implementation of the HSR System is found to be unsuccessful, it would consider a mandatory approach.