

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-189

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Front-of-Package Labelling

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McKenzie

Question:

Will the Cost Benefit analysis referred to in estimates be provided to industry before the Forum meets in December? What engagement have you had with the industry in performing this Cost Benefit analysis? What engagement have you had with the dairy industry on this analysis?

Answer:

The development of the business case, that includes an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Health Star Rating System, is currently underway.

The business case was not completed prior to the meeting of the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) on 13 December 2013.

The Assistant Minister for Health, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, informed the Forum that she will direct the Department of Health to broaden the business case to include evidence-based research and extensive industry consultations. This will be designed to address compliance that was noted by the Office of Best Practice Regulation as well as the interests of New Zealand. The dairy industry will be included in these consultations. The report is expected to be provided to the Forum in June 2014.