

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Question:** E13-190

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Front-of-Package Labelling

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

**Senator:** McKenzie

**Question:**

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) has said the FOPL scheme is non-compliant as it did not prepare a RIS for the consultation or their decision at the Forum. While the scheme is voluntary, there is significant pressure for industry adoption. Will the Forum undertake a RIS before implementation of the scheme? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

A business case is currently being undertaken, that includes an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Health Star Rating system.

At its meeting in 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 report is expected to be provided to the Forum in June 2014.