

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11-576

OUTCOME: 1: Population Health

Topic: LABELLING OF NANOPARTICLES IN SUNSCREENS

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Senator Xenophon asked:

Have you looked at any updated assessment of labelling of sunscreens, including overseas studies, where there has been a rethink on the need to label that so that consumers can at least make a choice with sunscreens as to whether it has nanoparticles or not?

Answer:

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) routinely monitors the available scientific literature on the subject of nanoparticle safety. The TGA considers that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that sunscreens containing nanoparticles pose any greater risk than conventional products, and therefore that changes to current labelling requirements are not necessary at this time. The TGA will continue to monitor the emerging scientific literature to assess whether any further regulatory change is required.