

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-147

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: ALCOHOL LABELLING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Ryan asked:

On 28 January 2011, the Australian Government released the Final Report, *Labelling Logic Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (2011)*. The Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (ANZFRMC), which is made up of Ministers from the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and from New Zealand, is now responsible for developing a comprehensive response to the recommendations of the Final Report by December 2011.

Recommendation 24 states: That generic alcohol warning messages be placed on alcohol labels but only as an element of a comprehensive multifaceted national campaign targeting the public health problems of alcohol in society.

Recommendation 25 states: That a suitably worded warning message about the risks of consuming alcohol while pregnant be mandated on individual containers of alcoholic beverages and at the point of sale for unpackaged alcoholic beverages, as support for ongoing broader community education.

- a) Can the Department inform the Committee if it supports these recommendations?
- b) Has it provided advice to the Minister on these matters?
- c) If so, what recommendation did that advice contain?
- d) Does the Minister support these recommendations?
- e) Will the Minister rule out graphic warnings or plain packaging of alcohol products as ways to support these measures?
- f) Are any activities underway within the Department to either develop possible compulsory graphic warnings on alcohol products or plain packaging of alcohol products?
- g) If so, what are these efforts?

Answer:

a), b), c), d), e), f), and g),

The final report, *Labelling Logic Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (2011)* was presented to the Government on 28 January 2011, and a whole-of-government response for all 61 recommendations, including recommendations 24 and 25, is being developed for consideration at the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council meeting in December 2011.