

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-020

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DRUGS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Di Natale asked:

- a) Given the decision to allow voluntary labelling regarding pregnancy by the industry, what will the Department's role be in encouraging industry to take part in the voluntary labelling regime?
- b) Will the Department be monitoring the uptake and effectiveness of voluntary labelling by industry?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing is consulting with the alcohol industry in respect to the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation (FoFR) decision made on 9 December 2011, in regard to the voluntary labelling for warning messages on alcoholic beverages about the risks of consuming alcohol while pregnant. This includes a meeting which was held with key alcohol industry stakeholders in early March to discuss the outcome of the FoFR decision and its implications for industry. Further meetings with key stakeholders are planned.
- b) The Government will work with industry to develop an evaluation strategy.