

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-276

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ALCOHOL ADVISORY STATEMENT RESEARCH REPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the answer which was provided in response to Question E11-279 re Alcohol Advisory Statement Research Report:

- a) Please explain why the Government does not simply release the report?
- b) If the Government will not release the report, please provide details of the appropriate Freedom of Information process to obtain it?

Answer:

- a) As stated in the response to a) for Question E11-279, the release of Report No. 1 is a matter for COAG. This report was taken to COAG out-of-session in late 2010, where COAG noted the report. There was no agreement to make the report public.

In relation to Report 2, this was released by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) on 17 February 2012 following receipt of a freedom of information request for access to reports commissioned under Application A576. The report is available on the FSANZ Freedom of Information (FOI) Disclosure Log at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/scienceandeducation/aboutfsanz/informationpublicationscheme/foidisclosurelog.cfm>

- b) As FSANZ commissioned the report, FOI requests should be addressed to FSANZ in the first instance (email: foi@foodstandards.gov.au) In considering any request for access, FSANZ will need to consult with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (as the COAG Secretariat), the former Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy secretariat in the Department of Health and Ageing and jurisdictions involved on both Councils. This will ensure that all relevant views can be considered against the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, before a decision can be made by FSANZ regarding release of the report.