

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question: E13-016**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic:** Food Provided On Cruise Ships

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 48, 13 February 2013

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

In relation to cruise ships that depart from and arrive in Australia:

- a) Which agency is responsible for standards regarding food provided?
- b) What standards apply to Australian food being stocked on those ships?
- c) What standards apply to internationally-flagged cruise ships that are based in Australia?

**Answer:**

- a) State and territory laws generally require those supplying or selling food for human consumption in Australia to comply with the standards in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). Food Standards Australia New Zealand is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Code. The administration and enforcement of state and territory laws and their application to cruise ships is a matter for state and territory authorities.
- b) The Code makes no specific provision for cruise ships. The standards contained in it are for general application. For example, Part 3 of the Code prescribes certain standards in relation to food safety which apply to any 'food business' as defined in the Code.

The application to cruise ships of state and territory laws requiring compliance with standards in the Code and the interpretation of those laws are matters for state and territory authorities.

- c) Refer to b) above.