

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-019

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: International Bans on Testing Cosmetics on Animals

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question:

Some years ago the EU introduced legislation to push forward the development of alternatives to animal testing and ensure the validation of those alternatives in the lead up to the ban. Would the government consider actively pursuing the same process?

Answer:

Through the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act* (the IC(NA) Act), the Australian Government has legislated to require an evaluation of the safety of industrial chemicals, including cosmetic ingredients, with the objective of protecting people at work, the general public and the environment from any harmful effects.

The vast majority of testing conducted on new cosmetic ingredients occurs outside of Australia. Therefore a testing ban to push forward the development of alternatives to animal testing in Australia would not have the same impact as in the European Union (EU). In addition, the new methodologies being developed in the EU, for which both the European Commission and the cosmetics industry have provided significant funding, can, and will, be adopted for Australian purposes once they have been shown to be valid replacements for other types of safety testing.