

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-020

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: International Bans on Testing Cosmetics on Animals

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question:

Earlier this year Israel followed the EU by introducing legislation to ban the sale of cosmetics (ingredients or finished products) tested on animals. India has now indicated that it is considering introducing similar legislation in the very near future. Why is the Australian Government avoiding the introduction of similar legislation that would bring us in line with many other countries?

Answer:

The *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act* (the IC(NA) Act) requires the provision of certain data necessary to determine the level of risk an industrial chemical (including cosmetic ingredients) may pose to human health or the environment. The IC(NA) Act affords the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) the ability to accept alternate testing data to that specified in legislation where it can be demonstrated to give accurate and reliable information through a validation process.