

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-142

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Food Regulation

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) Is the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation still committed to introducing a mandatory pregnancy warning label for alcohol starting December 2013?
- b) More than one year has now passed since the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation decided to support mandatory pregnancy warning labels. What process has the Government implemented to date to ensure that warning labels will be implemented on alcohol products at the end of the two year period?

Answer:

- a) The Australian members of the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation have recently reiterated the view they endorsed on 9 December 2011 in the Response to the Recommendations of Labelling Logic: Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy, that there should be mandatory labelling on alcohol about the risks of drinking whilst pregnant and confirmed their agreement to allow industry two years to adopt voluntary initiatives before regulating for this change.
- b) The Forum has corresponded with representatives from the alcohol industry indicating that it welcomes industry efforts to introduce warning labels voluntarily and is committed to working with industry as it continues to roll out voluntary initiatives.