

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-163

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

The NICNAS website states that a discussion paper proposing an arrangement suited to the regulation of nanoforms of 'existing' industrial chemicals is being developed by NICNAS and the NICNAS Nanotechnology Advisory Group as a basis for public consultations in 2011-12.

- a) When will this discussion paper be released?
- b) When are these public consultations expected to take place?
- c) When is NICNAS expected to introduce regulation for nanoforms of 'existing' industrial chemicals?

**Answer:**

a) to c)

Planned public consultations on the regulation of the nanoforms of 'existing' industrial chemicals by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) have been suspended while these issues are considered as part of the Better Regulation Ministerial Partnership Review of NICNAS, which is anticipated to make recommendations for consideration by the Australian Government in mid-2013.

The implementation of any reforms to the regulation of existing industrial chemicals (including their nanoforms) that may be agreed by the Australian Government will be dependent on the subsequent passage through Parliament of relevant amendments to the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* and supporting legislation.