

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000085

**OUTCOME:** 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

**Topic:** Microbeads

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

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question:**

- a) What level of post-market monitoring has been completed by NICNAS or other agencies on the environmental impact of microbeads on Australian waterways?
- b) How many products in the Australian market contain microbeads?
- c) Has NICNAS commenced any work, either with industry, or government, or other stakeholders, to review our current standards as they relate to Microbeads?
- d) What actions is required to be undertaken by NICNAS, or by Government, to bring Australian standards on microbeads into line with overseas jurisdictions like the United States.

**Answer:**

- a) Environmental monitoring of waterways does not fall within the scope of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).
- b) NICNAS does not register individual products, so does not hold information on the number of products in the Australian market containing microbeads.
- c) No
- d) The Environment portfolio has policy responsibility for this matter.