

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 16, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000247

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Urquhart, Ann

Question:

If primates were not imported into Australia, how long would it be until gender diversity became a problem for researchers?

Answer:

We have interpreted your question as referring to 'genetic' diversity, rather than 'gender diversity' and on that basis the following answer is provided:

The National Health and Medical Research Council is not able to provide an exact period of time as the numbers required to maintain genetic diversity will be dependent on the size of the colony, the genetic background of each individual non-human primate and the rate of depletion.