

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000345

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Biosecurity

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Abetz, Eric

Question:

Is the Department of Health aware that rogue states like Iran, North Korea and perhaps even Russia have the ability to use the latest biotechnology techniques to synthesise eradicated diseases like small pox and other virulent strands of similar viruses?

Answer:

The Department of Health maintains a watching brief on emerging and re-emerging communicable disease threats.