

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 – 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000412

OUTCOME: 2 – Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Nanomaterials in Food

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

In Senate Estimates in October last year a FSANZ representative (Mr McCutcheon) stated that: *There are lots of products where the manufacturing process for incorporating food additives into food products does produce materials in the nanoscale size.*

- a) Would you also agree that there are lots of products where nanomaterials are intentionally engineered at the nanoscale and intentionally added to food?
- b) In food testing commissioned by Friends of the Earth for example, all of the particles in the six samples containing nano silica were 100% nanoscale, would you agree that is likely to be the result of intentional manufacturing?

Answer:

- a) No. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is not aware of ‘engineered nanomaterials’ being added to foods available for sale in Australia.

FSANZ has not received an application to amend the Code in relation to a new or novel nanoscale material for food use.

- b) No. The Friends of the Earth-commissioned study was not designed, nor did it address, whether or not the particles were intentionally manufactured.