

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-001

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: REGULATIONS RELATING TO LABELLING ON SUGAR PACKAGING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boswell asked:

- a) Does the Minister agree with the new regulations that require certain labelling to be taken off sugar packaging, and warning symbols such as a red spot to be put on?
- b) Will the Industry lose its R and D funding if such measures are taken?

Answer:

- a) There are no new regulations that require changes to labelling of sugar. However, the recent Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy, commissioned by the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council), proposes a range of recommendations including, among others, changes to labelling for nutrition, health and related claims and also a system for front of pack labelling.

The Australian Government is working with state and territory governments and the New Zealand Government to develop a whole of Ministerial Council response to the recommendations. The development of this response will be a complex task, and consideration of the diverse stakeholder views on the recommendations will be part of this process. The Ministerial Council has agreed to consider its response at its meeting in December 2011.

- b) Research and development funding for industry is fully within the responsibility of the Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio.