

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-015

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

Given the research showing potential health risks, does FSANZ acknowledge that consumers have a right to know whether the products they are using include ingredients or components derived through nanotechnology?

Answer:

FSANZ is aware of consumer demands for mandatory labelling of foods produced using new technologies, including nanotechnology, which were raised most recently during the independent Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (the Blewett Review), commissioned by the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council).

The Ministerial Council is currently developing a whole-of-government response to the recommendations of the Review Report (*Labelling Logic*), including recommendations concerned with labelling of foods or ingredients derived from new technologies. FSANZ awaits this response.