

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-217

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

Type of Question: Hansard page 68, 31 May 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

In relation to maximum residue limits (MRLs):

- a) How many applications have there been in the last 18 months to increase MRLs for either domestically produced food or imported food?
- b) What chemicals were involved and what was the increase?
- c) What was the outcome?
- d) In relation to applications relating to 2, 4-D:
 - (i) How many have been received by FSANZ?
 - (ii) Who made the applications?
 - (ii) Has FSANZ received any other correspondence relating to 2, 4-D?

Answer:

- a) As at 31 May 2012, no formal applications to amend maximum residue limits in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) had been received by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.

d)

- (i) See response to (a) in relation to formal applications. Additionally, no requests to vary 2,4-D MRLs in food have been received.
- (ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) Yes. FSANZ has received two emails and spoken with the Applicant for Applications A1042 and A1046 relating to the approval of GM commodities, but no request to amend MRLs has been received. (See response to E12-218 and the links to the FSANZ website below for these two Applications:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/applicationa1042food4758.cfm>

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/applicationa1046food4807.cfm>