

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-020

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Alcohol Labelling

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Crossin

Question:

What is stopping the Government from tasking Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) which is the primary regulatory body for labelling, at the 14 June Forum on Food Regulation meeting? If this does not occur on 14 June when will this take place? Is the proposed evaluation delaying this decision to task FSANZ?

Answer:

Recommendation 25 of the 2011 Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (the Review) recommended mandatory warning messages on alcoholic beverages and at the point of sale about the risks of consuming alcohol while pregnant.

In response to this recommendation, on 9 December 2011 the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) agreed to provide the alcohol industry with a two-year period to voluntarily place pregnancy warnings on the labels of alcohol products before regulating such a change.

The proposed evaluation is not delaying a decision in relation to tasking Food Standards Australia New Zealand. A decision about next steps will be made after the two year voluntary period has ended.