Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000573

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Testing for Nanomaterials in Food

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Ouestion:

FSANZ has said it has done no testing and received no applications to sell foods containing nanomaterials. Will FSANZ now proactively undertake testing to determine if nanomaterials are in Australian foods?

Answer:

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has no evidence to date that would warrant the significant investigative and analytical resources needed to undertake testing of Australian foods to determine the general presence of nanomaterials. A case-by-case approach would need to be undertaken for each food type and each nanomaterial and FSANZ understands that, to date, there is no standard methodology for testing nanomaterials in food. It is known, however, that the methodology for accurately determining the presence and concentration of nanomaterials in different food matrices is highly complex. FSANZ will continue to maintain a watching brief on testing developments of nanomaterials in food and how this may be incorporated into the food regulatory framework, if required, in the future.