

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000577

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Titanium dioxide dietary exposure

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Is FSANZ aware that nano titanium dioxide is one of the most commonly used nanomaterials in food and that the highest exposure group is 2-4 year olds, primarily because the substance is used heavily in lollies, chewing gums and other sweets such as doughnuts?

Answer:

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is aware that titanium dioxide is used in a range of food products.

There is permission for the use of titanium dioxide (INS No. 171) in processed foods in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice in Schedule 1 of Standard 1.3.1 in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

This substance has a long history of safe use in foods in Australia and throughout the rest of the world.

FSANZ is further reviewing the scientific literature for certain insoluble materials with existing permissions in the Code, to determine whether there is any justification to establish specifications based on particle size, based on the best scientific evidence.