

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000584

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Titanium dioxide exposure

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

In light of the high level of exposure of children and the uncertainty regarding the safety of nano titanium dioxide, would FSANZ agree that a precautionary approach would be to prevent exposure of children to nano titanium dioxide until safety is determined?

Answer:

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is not aware of evidence to substantiate the ‘high level of exposure of children’ or ‘uncertainty regarding the safety of nano titanium dioxide’. Australian food laws generally impose obligations on food businesses, including manufacturers, retailers and importers, to supply safe and suitable food.

FSANZ maintains routine scrutiny of nanotechnology food safety information and is in regular communication with national and international regulators and researchers in this field. If FSANZ were to become aware of any public health issue with nano titanium dioxide then it would work with the state and territory enforcement agencies to develop appropriate risk management measures.