Ref No: SQ14-000586

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Food Packaging Survey

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

In response to Question SQ14-000089 FSANZ indicated that it had conducted a survey of food packaging manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand and that respondents did not identify any commercial use of nanotechnology in food packaging.

a) How many surveys were sent out?
b) How many responses did FSANZ receive?
c) Please table the survey that was distributed and the answers received.

Answer:

a) Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) designed two surveys for packaging manufacturers and food businesses; the first survey was sent out in 2012 and the second in 2013. The questions did not differ significantly between surveys; the second survey was worded more simply and presented in a more accessible format. For each occasion, approximately 50 surveys were distributed through the Packaging Council of Australia and New Zealand Packaging Council and through the Australian Food and Grocery Council and New Zealand Food and Grocery Council.

b) Twelve responses were received to the first survey and twenty-nine responses were received for the second survey.

c) As the surveys were similar and the questions on emerging issues (covering nanotechnology) were identical between surveys, one representative survey is at Attachment 1.

    The responses to those questions were provided in confidence and contain commercially sensitive information.

FSANZ relies on voluntary participation in its industry and other surveys which underpin its work in development of food standards. Publication of otherwise confidential information will undermine the latter. Participation in this case was on the express basis that responses would be kept confidential. FSANZ has provided a de-identified summary of the information (Attachment 2).