

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000594

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Use of nanosilver in food packaging

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Would FSANZ agree that the use of nanosilver in food packaging is primarily for its anti-microbial properties, meaning it is intended to migrate from the packaging into the food in order to kill any microbes that are present?

Answer:

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) does not assess the technological function of specific food packaging materials. It is the responsibility of food manufacturers and retailers to ensure that their products are safe and that they comply with all relevant legislation.

There are well-recognised methods available to food packaging manufacturers and food retailers to determine the level of migration of specific food packaging materials into foods.