

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2 & 3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000596

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Migration of nanosilver

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Is FSANZ aware the study by Huang et al. (2011) which demonstrated that nanosilver migrates in the nanoparticulate form from polyethylene (PE) composite packaging into food?

**Answer:**

Yes.

The paper describes the migration of elemental silver into different solvents (representing different food matrices) at a range of temperatures and time periods. This is considered to be a limited study with no evidence of statistical analysis and there are weaknesses in the overall explanation of the methodology, results and conclusions. Food Standards Australia New Zealand is aware of the large body of research on the migration of different chemicals (including silver) from packaging, and will continue to maintain a watching brief on this as part of its proposal work on “chemical migration from packaging into food.” Under the state and territory Food Acts, it is an offence to sell food packaging or handling materials that are unsafe or will make the food unsafe.