

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000600

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Synthetic chemicals leaching from food contact materials

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Is FSANZ aware the article “Food packaging and migration of food contact materials: will epidemiologists rise to the neotoxic challenge?” published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health in February this year which cautions about harmful long term consequences for human health as a result of the constant exposure to synthetic chemicals leaching from food contact materials?

**Answer:**

Yes, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is aware of this article and that there are challenges in understanding cause-effect relationships between chemicals that may migrate from packaging materials into food and public health outcomes. FSANZ will continue to discuss this with our international food regulatory partners and experts and to follow the relevant scientific literature to assess the validity of any putative relationships. FSANZ is currently reviewing regulatory (and non-regulatory) requirements for food packaging through a statutory proposal process (<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1034ChemicalMigrationfromPackagingintoFood.aspx>).