

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000626

OUTCOME: 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: Coal Seam Gas

Type of Question: Written Questions on Notice

Senator: Waters, Larissa

Question:

While the assessment will involve a preliminary environmental risk assessment, is it correct that it will only advise on whether a human health risk assessment is needed, to examine risks from mobilisation of naturally occurring toxins from fracking? Is it correct that this health risk assessment isn't part of the assessment?

a) Where does that leave us – which health risk questions will remain unanswered?

Answer:

These matters are being investigated as part of the National Assessment of Chemicals Association with Coal Seam Gas. The findings will be made public once the process is completed.