

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000601

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

**Topic:** Assessment of Chemicals in Cosmetics

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 30, 2 June 2015

**Senator:** Ruston, Anne

**Question:**

What would be the consequences of a ban [on animal testing of chemicals used in cosmetics]?

**Answer:**

The legislation and guidelines under which the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) operates, requires only a few (higher risk) new chemicals intended for use as cosmetic ingredients to submit data to NICNAS that could be derived from animal testing. Most chemicals used in cosmetics are exempt from assessment by NICNAS. With the implementation of the NICNAS reforms recently announced by government, more cosmetic chemicals are expected to become exempt from assessment.

The consequence of an immediate legislative ban on animal testing of all cosmetic ingredients is that assessments would be undertaken in an environment where alternative tests to fully evaluate the safety of these higher risk chemicals have not yet been developed and validated.

In the event of a ban before validated alternative tests are available, public health protection would need to be maintained through more conservative risk management recommendations, such that new cosmetic ingredients may be subject to restrictions that preclude their use in Australia. This could have a commercial impact on the Australian cosmetics industry and reduce consumer access new ingredients.