

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017–2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000745

OUTCOME: 2 – Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Nanomaterials in Food

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

Would FSANZ agree that ANSES is taking a more precautionary approach to food grade titanium dioxide than FSANZ?

Answer:

No. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has confirmed with ANSES that it is not recommending that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) 2016 risk assessment of food grade titanium dioxide, which concluded that titanium dioxide was safe as a food additive, be re-opened.

Instead, ANSES has recommended that additional studies are performed to address some of the limitations identified in their experiments. FSANZ will consider the relevance of these additional studies to the safety of titanium dioxide as they become available. See <https://www.anses.fr/en/content/titanium-dioxide-nanoparticles-food-additive-e171-biological-effects-need-be-confirmed>.