

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-040

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

Can the documents that the Department holds that pertain to the National Compliance and Monitoring Strategy for Genetically Modified Foods please be provided?

Answer:

The National Compliance and Monitoring Strategy for Genetically Modified Foods (the Strategy) is a document of the Implementation Sub Committee (ISC) which sits under the Food Regulation Standing Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council. The Strategy was recently revised by ISC and is provided at Attachment A.

The Strategy provides the framework to enable the consistent and effective monitoring and surveillance of GM foods across all jurisdictions, to facilitate a consistent approach to achieving compliance with Standard 1.5.2 - *Food Produced Using Gene Technology* that is contained in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*. A copy of Standard 1.5.2 is provided at Attachment B. It should be noted that the strategy is an agreed framework, it is not intended to initiate enforcement action by jurisdictions.

A copy of the Compliance Guide - which was also developed by ISC to assist businesses comply with the requirements of the Standard – and the revised Strategy was forwarded to jurisdictions for information, and circulation to relevant industry representatives by the Food Regulation Secretariat on 21 September 2010. The Compliance Guide is provided at Attachment C.