

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-412

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: 'A NEW FOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR AUSTRALIA – FOUNDATION AND TOTAL DIETS'

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) What advice has the NHMRC received from DAFF on its work on 'A new food guidance system for Australia – foundation and total diets'?
- b) What meetings have occurred and when?
- c) With which officers at DAFF?
- d) What advice, if any, has the NHMRC received from DEWHA/SEWPC on its work on 'A new food guidance system for Australia – foundation and total diets'?
- e) What meetings have occurred and when?
- f) With which officers at DAFF/SEWPC?

Answer:

- a) No formal advice has been received from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) at this point in the Dietary Guidelines work program.
- b) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) held a meeting with DAFF staff in June 2010 to discuss the draft *A New Food Guidance System – Foundation and Total Diets* and the outcomes of the public consultation (held April 2010). At this meeting the process of the modelling system used in this document which included environmental sustainability as one of three principles used to run the models. Following this meeting a letter has been sent to the Secretary of DAFF outlining the Dietary Guidelines Work Program process and development phases.
- c) The meetings and correspondence with DAFF has been with the General Manager of the Food Branch, Agricultural Productivity Division.
- d) No advice has been received by Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts/Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities at this point.

e and f)

NHMRC is in the process of planning a number of meetings with stakeholders advising on the comprehensive Dietary Guidelines Work Program in the coming months, including DAFF.