

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-413

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: DRAFT GUIDELINES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Is NHMRC aware of the concerns of the seafood industry about the draft guidelines which recommend Australians eat seafood just once a week?
- b) What correspondence or communication has it received demonstrating these concerns?
- c) When?

Answer:

- a) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is aware of the concerns of the seafood industry about a “recommendation” for Australians to eat seafood just once a week. Please note essential information below.
- b) Two industry bodies from the seafood industry provided a submission to the public consultation for *A New Food Guidance System for Australia – Foundation and Total Diets* in April 2010. Since the public consultation NHMRC has spoken to representatives of the seafood industry.
- c) April 2010.

Essential additional information:

*A New Food Guidance System for Australia – Foundation and Total Diets* is not a set of guidelines and has made no recommendations regarding what the Australian population should consume. Rather, it’s a scientific modelling system that determined the amounts of each food group a person can consume to meet their nutritional requirements.

The document has since been renamed to *A Modelling System to Inform the Revision of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating* to remove the confusion of the scope of the document. This document is one component that is being used to revise the *Dietary Guidelines*.

The *Dietary Guidelines* are currently under development and NHMRC intends to hold several stakeholder meetings, including with the seafood industry. These guidelines will have evidence based recommendations within them.