

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2011

Question: E11-101

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: GM CROPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

Are you aware of any examples from anywhere in the world of experimental GM crops finding their way into the human or animal food supply?

Answer:

Yes. FSANZ is aware of examples of experimental GM crops entering the human food supply in the past ten years, for example Liberty Link rice 601 and CDC Triffid flaxseed. All of these incidents occurred overseas. FSANZ investigated these two incidents in some detail because of the possibility that the unapproved GM food could enter the food supply through foods imported into Australia. In each of these cases, the potential risk to public health and safety for the Australian population was considered to be negligible.