

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-242

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BLEWETT REVIEW

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

In response to questions I placed on notice last estimates, the Department stated that they are currently working with other agencies on developing a whole of Government response to the Blewett Review.

- a) What is the current progress of this response?
- b) Is there a specific timeframe the Department is working to?
- c) When can we expect the response to be completed, given that the review was released in January this year?

Answer:

- a) The Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation (Forum), which replaces the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council, has agreed its response to the 61 recommendations in the Review Report, *Labelling Logic*.
- b) The Forum met on 9 December 2011 to consider its response to the 61 recommendations in the *Labelling Logic* Report.

The Forum has proposed actions and implementation over the next five years that endeavour to balance improving the information on food labels to meet consumers' needs, with maintaining marketing flexibility and minimising the regulatory burden on industry and barriers to trade.

- c) The Forum has agreed its response to the *Labelling Logic* Report. The full response is available on the Food Labelling Review website at: www.foodlabellingreview.gov.au