

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-243

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BLEWETT REVIEW

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

- a) Can the Department provide any information on what form the response is likely to take – will it agree/disagree with specific recommendations, or provide a strategic overview rather than responding to specific recommendations?
- b) What will the process be once the response has been released?

Answer:

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

The full response is available on the Food Labelling Review website at: www.foodlabellingreview.gov.au, and it addresses each of the 61 recommendations.

- b) In its response, 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.