

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 Oct 2011

Question: E11-247

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BLEWETT REVIEW

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

- a) Can FSANZ provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Blewett review?
- b) What is the next stage of the process and when will this occur?
- c) What will happen once the Government has prepared its response?
- d) Will FSANZ be consulting with other organisations (such as ACCC, Choice) through this process?
- e) What is a rough timeframe for implementation of the recommendations?
- f) Is FSANZ satisfied with the process so far? What about in terms of timeliness?

Answer:

a), b), c) and e)

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

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.

- d) In considering the 61 recommendations in the *Labelling Logic* report, the Government consulted extensively with stakeholders, and will continue to engage with stakeholders during the implementation process.

- f) The Department of Health and Ageing oversaw the whole of Government response process to the review, not Food Standards Australia New Zealand. The timing of the response by Food Ministers to the *Labelling Logic* Report – December 2011 – accords with the publicly announced timeframe of December 2011.