

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2011

Question: E11-279

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ALCOHOL ADVISORY STATEMENT RESEARCH REPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

FSANZ commissioned the National Drug Research Institute from Curtin University for a piece of work described in the 2008-09 Annual Report (Appendix 9) as 'A review of the effectiveness of advisory statements on packaged alcohol'.

- (a) Could you please make available a copy of this review?
- (b) Did the review cover both matters referred to in the 2008-09 FZANZ Annual Report quote that follows 'we commissioned the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University to conduct two reviews on the effectiveness of labelling, the first with a focus on high-risk drinking and the second on pregnancy.'
- (c) Were there any difference in the conclusions of the two reviews, between messages on high risk drinking and on pregnancy?
- (d) Were the conclusions of this review made available to the FSANZ Ministerial Committee on May 2009?
- (e) What were the conclusions of this review?

Answer:

- (a) The review was made available to the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (the Council) in May 2009 and was subsequently referred to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy before its submission to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The conclusions from the review on the effectiveness of labelling will be considered during policy development processes in the area of health advisory statements on alcoholic beverages. The release of this report is a matter for COAG.
- (b) Yes. Both high-risk drinking and pregnancy were covered. Food Standards Australia New Zealand commissioned the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University to prepare two reviews as follows:
 - Report 1: Alcohol Warning Labels: Evidence of effectiveness on risky alcohol consumption and short term outcomes.

- Report 2: Alcohol Warning Labels: Evidence of impact on alcohol consumption amongst women of child-bearing age and during pregnancy.
- (c) No. The key conclusions about the effectiveness of health advisory statements in the two reports are similar.
- (d) Yes. Report 1 was made available to the Council in May 2009.
- (e) The conclusions from the review on the effectiveness of labelling will be considered during policy development processes in the area of health advisory statements on alcoholic beverages.

As noted in (d) above, the assessment of Application A576 has been delayed due to the Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy. When FSANZ resumes work on Application A576, the conclusions in Report 2 will be included in an assessment report that will be released for public consultation.