

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000735

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Nanoparticle Applications

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

- a) Has any company contacted FSANZ seeking advice as to whether to apply for approval for foods containing nano particles? (if so, how many companies, was it in writing, what foods?)
- b) If manufacturers are aware that the toxicity profile of nanoparticles they are using is different to non-nano materials, or if the use of nanoparticles has a technological or nutritional function, are they then required to apply for approval?

**Answer:**

- a) Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has received two written enquiries from the same company (at different times) seeking advice regarding an anti-caking agent and liquid flavour technology. No details of the specific food were provided in the first enquiry. The second enquiry related to a potential use in the beverage industry, but the product did not contain material in the nano range.
- b) Australian food laws require new or novel forms of food additives that do not conform to relevant specifications, or which perform a different function in the food, to undergo premarket assessment by FSANZ through an application to amend the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*.