

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000826

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Safety Assessments

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

- a) FSANZ has told Parliament that any new food manufactured using nanotechnologies “that may present safety concerns” will undergo a “comprehensive scientific safety assessment” before they can be sold in Australia. Is that correct?
- b) What are the FSANZ criteria for determining whether a study or a collection of studies is sufficient to raise what is after all a very low threshold for pre-market testing and approval? (May present safety concerns)
- c) And have manufacturers been informed of these criteria?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes. Australian food laws prohibit the sale of food that is unsafe, unsuitable or which does not comply with a requirement in the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*.
- b) Guidance on determining whether a study or a collection of studies is/are sufficient has been elaborated in the *Application Handbook* in relation to nanotechnologies.
- c) Food Standards Australia New Zealand has advised industry of changes to the *Application Handbook* in relation to nanotechnologies.