

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-038

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: PLAIN PACKAGING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Has the Department provided any advice or briefings to the Minister for Health and Ageing on graphic health warning and plain packaging for the following: alcohol, food products, energy drinks?
- b) If plain packaging is deemed by your Department to be necessary for tobacco products then why is it not necessary for alcohol and fast food products given the relative health risks they pose?
- c) What discussions have you had with other industries regarding graphic health warning and plain packaging?
- d) What work has been done by the Department on further regulatory measures that will impact on these industries including manufacturers and retailers?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) Any level of consumption of tobacco products is harmful to human health. This is not the case for alcohol and fast food products.
- c) The Department has not had any discussions about graphic health warnings or plain packaging with the alcohol or food industries.
- d) On 28 January 2011, the Australian Government released the Final Report, *Labelling Logic Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (2011)*. The Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (ANZFRMC), which is made up of Ministers from the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and from New Zealand, is now responsible for developing a comprehensive response to the recommendations of the Final Report by December 2011.