

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-128

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: LABELLING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the FSANZ - Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with the Pregnancy Health Advisory Label, please advise:

- a) When was Application A576 received by FSANZ?
- b) When was the Initial Assessment released?
- c) Has FSANZ completed its Draft Assessment?
- d) If so, when will it be released?
- e) If so, has the Draft Assessment been delayed until after the completion of the Review into Food Labelling Law and Policy (the Blewett Review)?
- f) If not, how much work needs to be done on the Draft Assessment?
- g) Is there anything from the Blewett Review that will affect the A576 Application Review?

Answer:

- a) FSANZ received Application A576 from the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand on 17 February 2006.
- b) The Initial Assessment Report was released for public comment between 12 December 2007 and 6 February 2008.
- c) FSANZ has not completed the Draft Assessment Report.
- d) See response to c).
- e) In June 2010, FSANZ deferred further consideration of Application A576 due to the independent Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy, which included consideration of health warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

- f) See response to e).
- g) The independent Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy has recommended mandatory labelling about the risk of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. A whole-of-government response to the labelling review is currently under development and is expected to be considered by Food Regulation Ministers by the end of 2011.