

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000252

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Tobacco Plain Packaging

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

**Senator:** Leyonhjelm, David

**Question:**

Regarding the following testimony at Estimates on 25 February 2015, when did the Health Department website first refer to the post-implementation review of plain packaging and the Siggins Miller consultation process? What is the period between this date and the end of the consultation period? Is the length of this period sufficient?

“Senator LEYONHJELM: Is the post-implementation review of plain packaging referred to on the health department's website?”

Mr Smyth: I am sure it is, but I will have to check on that. I am sure it would have been because we have advertised for public submissions and the like. There were advertisements that were placed on 16 February. There is a Twitter feed on our website that advertised it and it was advertised in the Adelaide Advertiser, The Australian, The AFR, The Courier-Mail, The Canberra Times, the Mercury, The Age, the NT News, The Sydney Morning Herald and The West Australian.”

**Answer:**

The Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the tobacco plain packaging measure and the Siggins Miller consultation process was first advertised in the Department of Health’s Twitter feed (which is accessible from a link on the Department of Health internet homepage), on 15 February 2015. A notice about the PIR consultations, including a link to Siggins Miller’s PIR consultation website, was also put on the Department of Health website on 2 March 2015.

The consultation period ran from 16 February 2015 to 27 March 2015; a period of approximately six weeks.

The consultation period is in accordance with the best practice consultation guidance of the Australian Government Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR). OBPR has advised that, depending on the significance of the regulatory measure or proposal, between 30 to 60 days is usually appropriate for effective consultation.