

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-002

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

What ongoing monitoring does the Department conduct of international and domestic research into nanotechnology and emerging risks?

Answer:

Nanotechnology research is primarily the responsibility of the Innovation, Industry and Science and Research portfolio.

Within the Health Portfolio, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) monitors developments both nationally and internationally in relation to scientific research on nanotechnology with respect to food and food safety. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) and, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) undertake the same activities as FSANZ relevant to their responsibilities.

The Department, FSANZ, TGA, NICNAS and OGTR also participate in relevant meetings and other fora, including the Health, Safety and Environment Working Group chaired by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, in order to share information and monitor scientific developments relating to nanotechnology in a broad spectrum of areas.