

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question: E12-243**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic: DIETARY GUIDELINES – SUGARS AND ‘D-GRADE’ EVIDENCE**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells**

**Question:**

I understand the NHMRC's Dietary Guidelines Committee has revised the guideline on added sugars based on 'strengthened new evidence' in relation to sugar consumption and obesity. Yet, the NHMRC commissioned SLR/scientific review, found the evidence was D grade which is defined by the NHMRC as being a weak body of evidence and any recommendation must be applied with caution.

Will the NHMRC Working Committee provide a clear written rationale for why 'D grade' evidence has been used to significantly revise the sugars guideline? And, will the Working Committee provide the new high level evidence that led to the amendment of the draft guideline on added sugars since it has not been publicly released? If so, when will it be publicly released? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

No D grade evidence statements were used to draft the recommendations.

The Evidence Report is on the NHMRC website.