

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-249

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: DIETARY GUIDELINES – DELAY

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

At the previous Senate Estimates hearings in May, I was advised that the Dietary Guidelines were expected to be finalised by August.

- a) What is the latest expectation in terms of timing?
- b) This is one of many delays to these Dietary Guidelines being released. What specifically has caused this delay?

Answer:

- a) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) anticipates releasing the Australian Dietary Guidelines in early 2013.
- b) In accordance with the *NHMRC Act (1992)*, feedback from public consultation must be taken into account. This led to some amendments to the Guidelines which were considered by the Council of NHMRC in August 2012. Additionally, and also in accordance with the *NHMRC Act (1992)*, NHMRC undertook another period of public consultation for 30 days on a new appendix that was recommended during the first public consultation. This public consultation closed on 2 November 2012.