

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-323

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: TESTING COSMETICS ON ANIMALS

Type of Question: Written Questions on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question:

In 2003 the European Parliament passed “The 7th Amendment to the Cosmetics Directive” banning the use of animals in cosmetic testing anywhere in Europe and the import of any cosmetics tested on animals, regardless of their country of origin.

- a) Is the Minister for Health considering following the lead of the European Union by introducing a standard under section 81(1) of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*, stating that no cosmetic shall be imported into, or manufactured in, Australia if the final product or its ingredients have been tested on animals?
- b) If not, why not?
- c) Is there any support for investigating the introduction of this standard?

Answer:

a) to c)

The Australian Government has legislated to require an evaluation of the safety of new cosmetic ingredients entering the market and is aware of the amendments to the Cosmetics Directive in the European Union related to the phasing out of animal testing. For many health effects non-animal test methods have either not yet been developed, or are still in the process of being evaluated and validated as reliable replacements. Therefore to ensure consumer safety there is still currently a need to rely on animal testing to evaluate the toxicity of new cosmetic ingredients in situations where no acceptable alternative methods are available.