

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-174

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Front-of-Package Labelling

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McKenzie

Question:

Will the Department delay implementation of the new star system until identified problems such as dairy, are rectified?

Answer:

Decisions regarding the timeframes for implementation are made by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum).

At its 13 December 2013 meeting, the Forum endorsed the Health Star rating (HSR) calculator, including its treatment of dairy products.

The Forum agreed that the Front-of-Pack Labelling Oversight and Advisory Committee (to be established in early 2014) would recommend a process for addressing any anomalies that may present with the HSR calculator in the future. The timeframe for implementation has not changed.