

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001284

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Proposal P1030 – Health Claims – Formulated Supplementary Sports Foods and Electrolyte Drinks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

I understand FSANZ is currently proposing that electrolyte drinks like Gatorade and Powerade should be able to carry a broader range of health claims related to their performance and composition.

- a) What is the current status of the Proposal?
- b) What additional health claims would these drinks be able to market under the changes? Can you provide any specific examples? Eg. “Improves Hydration”?

Answer:

- a) Food Standards Australia New Zealand is considering submitter comments received on a draft variation to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code arising from the Proposal (P1030) following a round of public consultation.
- b) The Proposal does not specify the health claims that would be permitted to be carried. Instead, it allows products regulated as electrolyte drinks to self-substantiate health claims in relation to their identified purpose only, that is *for the rapid replacement of fluid, carbohydrates and electrolytes lost as a result of sustained, strenuous physical activity*.