

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001287

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Sports Drinks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

I understand sports drinks are high in sugar, salt and kilojoules. A regular 600 mL bottle of Gatorade contains 36 g of sugar while a standard can of coke, at 375 mL, contains 40 g of sugar.

- a) How does FSANZ respond to claims by consumer groups like CHOICE that assert these claims will ultimately mislead consumers into believing these drinks are a healthy option when they are high in sugar?
- b) What scientific evidence would be required to substantiate these claims?

Answer:

- a) Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has received a written submission on Proposal 1030 from CHOICE, as well as submissions from a number of other consumer and public health groups. FSANZ will consider each of these submissions and any evidence provided in support of the views expressed in them.
- b) The level and nature of scientific evidence required to substantiate health claims is outlined in Standard 1.2.7 – Nutrition, Health and Related Claims which is available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2013L00054>