

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001290

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Scientific Evidence – Health Claims on Sports Drinks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Does the scientific evidence need to show the changes of effects on an elite athlete versus say a sedentary office worker? If not, why not?

Answer:

For health claims on electrolyte drinks, the scientific evidence should be relevant to the identified purpose of these drinks (*that is for the rapid replacement of fluid, carbohydrates and electrolytes lost as a result of sustained, strenuous physical activity*). Therefore, the food-health relationship must be demonstrated in a population group undertaking sustained, strenuous physical activity.