

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001463

**OUTCOME:** 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

**Topic:** The National Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Waters, Larissa

**Question:**

Further to QoN SQ14-000623 of Budget Estimates 2014, regarding the National Assessment of Chemicals associated with CSG extraction, and noting that the previous response was less than informative, please advise:

- a) Is this review simply a desktop review of existing, publicly available data, or is any new research or investigative work is being undertaken? Please provide information.
- b) Whether the final report clearly outline ongoing information gaps regarding chemicals associated with CSG extraction, and identify further areas for research?
- c) What are the Terms of Reference for this assessment?
- d) When is the planned release date for this assessment?

**Answer:**

- a) New research is being undertaken and a full description of the National Chemicals Assessment of Chemicals associated with coal seam gas extraction is available on the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) website <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/issues/fracking-hydraulic-fracturing-coal-seam-gas-extraction/information-sheet>
- b) The final reports are under development and will be made public once complete.
- c) The scope of the assessment is described on the NICNAS website <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/issues/fracking-hydraulic-fracturing-coal-seam-gas-extraction/information-sheet>
- d) First half of 2015.