

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 – 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000565

OUTCOME: 2 – Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Nanomaterials in Food

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

- a) When FSANZ commissioned the ToxConsult reports into nanomaterials in food and food packaging, it indicated that following publication of the report on Potential Health Risks Associated with Nanotechnologies in Existing Food Additives, there would be an opportunity of the public and other interested stakeholders to comment on the report. (see SQ15-000829)

Has this opportunity for comment been provided? If so, please describe how? If no, why not?

- b) In the ToxConsult report on Potential Health Risks Associated with Nanotechnologies in Existing Food Additives, the authors refer to a Dutch study (Dekkers 2012) that estimates a level of silicon intake 6-15 times higher than EFSA (2009) of which the authors estimate approximately 20% could be in the nano scale.

Does FSANZ have any estimates for the dietary intake of SiO₂ in Australia for adults and children? If yes, please provide those estimates and their basis.

- c) When ToxConsult was commissioned to prepare reports on nanomaterials in food and packaging, were the authors and the company required to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest?

If yes, please table the disclosure. If no, why not?

Answer:

- a) *Potential Health Risks Associated with Nanotechnologies in Existing Food Additives* was published on the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) website in June 2016, following a comprehensive peer review by an expert toxicologist. The release of the report was promoted to stakeholders via the FSANZ newsletter and a media alert. All stakeholders were welcome to provide comment and feedback on our work and a number of expert comments were published via the Australian Science Media Centre website at <https://www.scimex.org/>

- b) No.
- c) Yes. FSANZ has no record of any actual or potential conflicts of interest being declared by the consultant.