

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 699

Topic: Taxes to Promote Healthy Eating

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bob Brown asked:

699. Denmark has recently introduced, with broad political support, a 'fat tax'. Some countries tax sugar. Has Treasury done any work on the potential for taxes to promote healthy eating?

Answer:

Treasury has not done any work on a 'fat tax'.

Treasury notes that the Australia's Future Tax System Review did analyse possible taxation initiatives that promote the consumption of healthier foods. The Review noted that the risk of obesity is not solely dependent on the consumption of particular foods, but rather, a range of factors including lifestyle, inherited and social influences and for this reason, it is not a "simple case of imposing a per unit tax on fat, sugar or salt in food." (p.320, Australia's Future Tax System Review).