

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1587**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 29 October 2008**

**MR HAYWARD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

How is his department assisting the poultry industry with trade and market access?

**ANSWER:**

Biosecurity Queensland supports market access for the poultry industry through a range of disease prevention, surveillance and response preparedness activities. A particular issue for some markets is *Salmonella enteritidis*.

*Salmonella enteritidis* is a notifiable disease of poultry with public health significance. *Salmonella* outbreaks can have particularly severe consequences in highly vulnerable populations such as the young, old and immunocompromised.

Queensland recognises international concerns regarding public health and in particular, *Salmonella enteritidis* and is managing this risk by the implementation of a *Salmonella enteritidis* monitoring and certification program.

This monitoring and certification program has been developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) in collaboration with Safe Food Production Queensland. The program has been endorsed by the Queensland poultry industry to assist table egg producers access overseas markets and to enhance food safety.

The intent of the program is to provide assurance to overseas countries that a *Salmonella enteritidis* monitoring and certification program is in place in Queensland and that isolates of *Salmonella enteritidis* will be fully investigated to identify the cause and deficiencies will be rectified.

Ongoing general surveillance through DPI&F laboratories has provided no evidence that *Salmonella enteritidis* is a problem in Queensland's poultry industries.

DPI&F continues to work with Queensland companies to identify market opportunities and to develop relationships that will facilitate trade.