

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question: E12-311**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic: NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS ASSOCIATED WITH COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION**

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Waters

**Question:**

Please describe the relationship between NICNAS and the Interim and Final Independent Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mines following the funding announcement.

**Answer:**

Following advice from the Interim Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining, and the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), Minister Burke agreed to provide \$4.2 million for Stage One of the project entitled 'A Comprehensive National Assessment of the Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction, including Risks Associated with Surface handling of Chemicals in Hydraulic Fracturing and Flowback/Produced Waters'.

As the lead agency for this project, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme will make the national assessment report available for consideration by the Independent Expert Scientific Committee.