

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-001237

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

**Topic:** National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme

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

**Senator:** Ruston, Anne

**Question:**

- a) How many applications for new industrial chemicals to be introduced into Australia relied on Animal Testing last financial year?
- b) How many new industrial chemicals introduced into Australia relied on animal testing last financial year?
- c) How many of the new industrial chemicals applications and approvals that relied on animal testing were to be ingredients in cosmetic products (as defined by the Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989)?

**Answer:**

- a) Only the Standard notification category has statutory data requirements that have historically relied on animal testing. In the 2013-14 financial year there were 40 applications in this category - 29 of these relied on animal testing of the notified chemical for at least one toxicological data requirement, while 11 relied only on read-across from historical animal test data submitted on chemicals that are structurally similar, and are predicted to have the same or similar toxicity profile (analogue chemicals).
- b) In the 2013-14 financial year there were 44 certificates issued for chemicals assessed in the Standard notification category - 34 of these relied on animal testing of the notified chemical for at least one toxicological data requirement, while 10 relied only on read-across from historical animal test data submitted on chemicals that are structurally similar, and are predicted to have the same or similar toxicity profile (analogue chemicals).

It is important to note that, the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme does not collect information on actual introductions of chemicals once a certificate has been issued, and therefore does not have access to data to determine whether every certificate issued actually led to an introduction of the notified chemical.

- c) Of the 29 Standard notifications applications in the 2013-14 financial year that relied on animal testing of the notified chemical, one was for an ingredient in cosmetic products. There was one other application for a cosmetic ingredient but this utilised only historical animal test data conducted on analogue chemicals.

Of the 34 Standard notification approvals in the 2013-14 financial year (i.e. certificates issued) that relied on animal testing of the notified chemical, six were for ingredients in cosmetic products. There were two other Standard notification approvals for cosmetic ingredients that utilised only historical animal test data conducted on analogue chemicals.