

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001464

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

Topic: The National Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Waters, Larissa

Question:

With regard to SQ14-000624 of Budget Estimates 2014, regarding the National Assessment of Chemicals associated with CSG extraction, the questions asked in the previous QoN were procedural in nature, and as such should be able to be answered prior to the final conclusion of the assessment. Please provide an updated response to these questions in relation to the voluntary industry survey involves asking CSG companies what chemicals they're using.

- a) How many CSG companies have been surveyed?
- b) Have all of them been cooperative, and forthcoming with information you need?
- c) Have there been any claims of commercial in confidence made?
- d) If so, how many?
- e) Is the Department confident it is received accurate information, and that there is no risk of any information being withheld?
- f) Why is the Department unable to require CSG companies to provide the information required for this assessment, but merely ask for the companies' voluntary cooperation, given you are doing a health risk assessment of the industry?

Answer:

These issues will be addressed in the final published report.