Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio 2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates 31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: NOPSEMA

TOPIC: Health and Safety Incidents reported to NOPSEMA

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 143)

QUESTION No.: BI-72

Senator KETTER: Thank you, gentlemen, for coming all the way over. I also apologise for the lateness of the hour. You probably know the issue that I am going to ask about: how many work health and safety incidents have been reported to NOPSEMA in the last four years? You cannot do maths that quickly, probably!

Mr Smith: It is already reported, and it is on our website. I do not have before me the specific numbers for the four years, so I will take it on notice.

Senator KETTER: Thank you. How many have led to a prosecution?

Mr Smith: Once again, for the four years, I do not have that in front of me.

Mr O'Keeffe: There has been one related to a diving incident and possibly another one. We can take that on notice, but it is a small number.

ANSWER

From 2013-16, there were 1,406 work health and safety incidents reported to NOPSEMA comprising 36 accidents and 1,370 dangerous occurrences.

During the same period, NOPSEMA issued 98 occupational health and safety enforcement actions comprising 70 improvement notices, 10 prohibition notices, three requests for a safety case revision, 12 written advice/warning, and three prosecution briefs.

Prosecution briefs were prepared in relation to the 2012 incident which caused two fatalities on the Stena Clyde mobile offshore drilling unit in the Bass Strait.

No other matters were subject to prosecution.

Further information and guidance on incidents and accidents is available on www.nopsema.gov.au.