

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Agency - Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000213

Senator McKenzie provided in writing

#### Question

##### ASEA - National Strategy

1. When was the ASEA National Strategy developed and signed off by all states and territories?
2. I understand there are six strategies in the Plan – awareness, best practice, identification, removal, research and international leadership. Against each of these, are a series of deliverables and outcomes. The Plan commenced from 2014. Can you outline what has been achieved against each one of these for the first financial year?
3. Has there been a report provided to Government against each strategy, deliverable and outcome for the financial year?
4. If there is no report, why?
5. If each state, territory and the Commonwealth has signed up to the Plan, could you provide detail about what each state and territory and the Commonwealth have achieved against each strategy, deliverable and objective?
6. Has there been a report provided to Government which details progress for each state and territory and the Commonwealth? Is this published?
7. If not, Could you explain to the Committee why no report has been provided, given the National Strategy is the key reason the Agency was established?
8. Given the Plan is from 2014-18, what will be achieved this year (2015-16)?
9. Could you outline how the public can inform itself on the progress of the implementation of the National Strategy, given its significance and importance?
10. Where are the documents the public can access that will show them what is being achieved by each state and territory and Commonwealth each year in this very important area?

#### Answer

1. This first iteration of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness was originally released in 2013, and was based on significant consultation undertaken by the former Office of Asbestos Safety. When the 2013 plan was released, no endorsement was sought from states and territories. In late 2013, the former Minister for Employment wrote to the agency (who by this stage had carriage of the plan) requesting the plan be revised and the endorsement of the states and territories was achieved. The agency undertook consultation with states and territories during 2014 to revise the plan, including releasing a number of draft versions for comment. The plan was signed off and launched by the Minister following a meeting of State and Territory workplace health and safety Ministers on 28 August 2015.
2. See Attachment A.
3. A briefing was sent to workplace health and safety Senior Officials from each state and territory and the Commonwealth prior to their meeting on 26 February 2016. A brief will be provided to the Commonwealth Minister following updates arising from this meeting.

4. It is anticipated that updates to the list of activities will be provided by the states and territories following this meeting. The Commonwealth Minister will be briefed afterwards to ensure the most up to date information is presented.
5. See Attachment A.
6. A brief will be provided to the Commonwealth Minister shortly.
7. See response to question 4.
8. The achievements to date for the 2015–2016 financial year can be found in Attachment A. Other planned activities are outlined in the agency's Corporate Plan available publically on its website.
9. The agency reports on the progress of the implementation of the plan through its Annual Plan available publically on its website.
10. Finalised reports commissioned by the agency are available publically on the website. Each state and territory has a website providing asbestos information where its key documents can be accessed by the public.