

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

**Agency - Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001543**

**Senator Paterson asked on 02 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 119**

#### **Question**

##### **ASEA - Research report**

Senator PATERSON: I am going through the bulk of the research report here, and every piece of feedback is tagged as having come from the council. It goes on to say, 'Council members are positive about the ASEA's work in best practice'—for example. I have not read every page of the report, but it says, 'Council members are amongst the hardest to coordinate due to the various jurisdictional and industry stakeholders involved.' It only refers to council members. Is there another report that I have missed somewhere?

Mr Tighe: I think that is the case. It is a component of our overarching surveying work. I remember the process where we surveyed our council—they are a very important group obviously. But, as I said, to get our general direction and get input into whether or not we are meeting the requirements of the national strategic plan, we also have to start to get their views in relation to what we should concentrate on under the national strategic plan. I am happy to provide the detail of all of that on notice.

#### **Answer**

This research was part of a project the agency commissioned which had two purposes: to inform planning and operational priorities of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) and to obtain feedback from members of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council on the agency's performance administering the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness*. In total, 51 stakeholders were engaged through this research.

The components of the research were: telephone interviews, online surveys and written consultation. In addition to the ten council members, stakeholders consulted included:

- state, territory and Australian government representatives = with responsibility for work health and safety, environment protection and public health
- specialist bodies such as Safe Work Australia, the Australian Capital Territory Asbestos Response Taskforce, and the NSW Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce
- Members of the agency's Research Advisory Committee and the Building Construction and Demolition Sectors Committee.