Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM0841_15

Senator Back asked on 2 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 98

Question

SWA - Translation of codes into different languages

CHAIR: We obviously hope that we will see a greater level of uniformity in terms of comprehension. That is one of the desired outcomes. Is it one of the objectives that we would actually see improved safety standards across the workplaces because of a better and easier comprehension of the standards? Ms Baxter: Certainly, Senator. To the degree that codes of practice contribute to safety standards, that is certainly one of the objectives in the reworking that we have been undertaking in the agency. CHAIR: Once it has been settled, is it then proposed to be duplicated into other languages, for example? Ms Baxter: That is not something that we have considered. What generally happens is the codes are developed by Safe Work Australia and made available on the Safe Work Australia website in English. However, the regulators from all jurisdictions in Australia then take them and make them their own codes by topping and tailing and putting their logos on et cetera. I believe, although I would need to come back to you—perhaps I could take this on notice—that they do actually translate the codes into a number of different languages in the jurisdictions. I could come back to you on that. CHAIR: If you would

Answer
Safe Work Australia has not translated the model Codes of Practice into other languages. Jurisdictional regulators have not released translated Codes of Practice.

Safe Work Australia has, however, recently had three of our most popular guides translated into six languages; Vietnamese, Greek, Arabic, Italian, Hindi and Chinese. The guides are:

1. *The Essential Guide to Work Health and Safety for Volunteers*
2. *The Essential Guide to Work Health and Safety (WHS) for Organisations that Engage Volunteers*
3. *Fact sheet—Managing Risks to Health and Safety at the Workplace.*

These were translated as part of a free initiative by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. They will be published on our website shortly.

Safe Work Australia has also recently added google translate to our website. This free service translates the website into 80 languages; this can only be applied to the web-based content rather than publications.