

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates
19 October 2011

Question: SR8
Topic: Minerals Council Report
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Senator Cameron asked:

Ms Constable: The Minerals Council of Australia certainly hold that information. The resource councils around Australia hold it in relation to their states. Also, companies report on it. So there is a range of data. What is not there is data across all of those areas for Australia. I have pointed out that a database is currently being developed. That is being driven by the department at the moment to ensure that that information is brought together.

Senator CAMERON: So you are trying to deal with the carnage in the industry.

Ms Constable: We are trying to make sure that there is consistent national data across Australia.

Senator CAMERON: When you say that the Minerals Council "hold" this, do they publish it?

Ms Constable: Information is available on their website, so in that respect it is published.

Senator CAMERON: I have had a look and I cannot find it in their annual report. When you try to find the report it takes you to their annual report, and then it is all just rhetoric.

Ms Constable: I am not sure exactly where you will find it there.

Senator CAMERON: I may not be able to find it. If you have it could you point us to where we can find it, so we can see what the Minerals Council is actually doing in relation to the industry.

Answer:

The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) produces annual Minerals Industry Safety and Health Performance Reports. These Reports are based on data obtained from state and territory regulators and MCA member companies. The Reports provide information on Lost Time Injury numbers, frequency rates and duration rates and details of fatal injuries and frequency rates, across minerals industry sectors. The Reports also provide international comparisons with the mining industries of the United States, Canada and South Africa.

The MCA publishes these reports on its website. The reports were unavailable for a short period following the launch of a new website earlier this year, but can now be found at www.minerals.org.au/resources/safety_performance_reporting. The most recent report is the 2007-08 Report. The time lag between the reporting period and the publication of reports due to difficulties in obtaining data from state/territory regulators and MCA member companies and the complexities associated with analysing inconsistent data.

The National Mine Safety Database (NMSD) is intended to replace the service currently provided by the MCA. As an incident reporting system, the NMSD will ensure consistency in the data collected from mine operators by state and territory regulators, and greater detail than was possible in the MCA Annual Report, as the system will be able to "drill-down" into the data further to

identify trends in relation to incident types and sectors as well as leading causes and other incident factors. Mining companies and state/territory regulators will be able to generate reports containing detailed incident information for their company or state, depending on their user profiles (required to access the NMSD), while the general public will be able to generate reports based on aggregated data.

The development of the NMSD is expected to be completed in March/April 2012. It will be available for mine operators to commence inputting data from 1 July 2012 for the first full reporting period of the 2012-13 financial year.