

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
17 FEBRUARY 2005**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**National Occupational Health and Safety Commission**

**Question Number: W282-05**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall asked at *Hansard* page 119:

Since implementation can the Commission provide (in relation to the Hazardous Substances Information System):

- (a) statistics on the number of hits the site has received;
- (b) costs associated with setting up the database, including how many staff and people hours were involved; and
- (c) statistics on the number of times the feedback function has been used broken down by industries, issues and trends.

**Answer:**

(a) The hazardous substances search page (<http://www.nohsc.gov.au/applications/hsis/searchhs.aspx>) has been viewed 29,666 times. (Source: DeepMetrix Livestats 6.2.6, Page Views report)

(b) An external software development consultant was contracted to develop the system following a tender process. An additional consultant with experience in project management was used to assist in managing the project. The total external consultancy costs associated with development of the HSIS were \$40,259.

The project was managed by a NOHSC Senior Project Officer (Executive Level 1) with support from a Project Officer (APS5). There was no requirement to maintain detailed timesheets for the project. It is estimated that the development effort spanned 20 months with the EL1 Officer working at 0.1 fulltime equivalents (FTE) on the project and the APS5 Officer working at 0.05 FTE on the project. It is estimated that 459 hours were spent on the project by NOHSC (now Office of ASCC) staff.

(c) The feedback received is summarised below.

<b>Affiliation of person providing feedback</b>	<b>No. of occurrences</b>
Government	2
Education / University	3
Chemical Industry	3
Chemical Consultant	2
Transport Industry	1
Medical	1
Agricultural Industry	1
Employee Organisation	1
Information Technology	1
Not Specified	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>Nature of feedback</b>	<b>No. of occurrences</b>
General positive feedback about availability and operation of HSIS	3
Suggested enhancements	9
Technical issue- IT related	4
Technical issue- Related to chemical data	2
Chemicals query- Not directly related to HSIS	4
Request for further information on operation of database or data sources and formatting	3
General negative feedback on useability	1
Specific difficulty in operation	1
<b>Total (Note: some respondents provided feedback in more than one category)</b>	<b>27</b>

As this project is still in the testing phase, it is too early to report on trends. However, issues to date include:

- a modified key to abbreviations
- access to material safety data sheets.