

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW1120_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012, Hansard page 86

Question

SWA - safe dive practices

Senator ABETZ: It is asserted that no dive fishery industry organisation has been consulted and we have, as I understand it, once again the attempt to get a one size fits all, with divers that operate I think on oil rigs et cetera somehow being linked in with, in effect, commercial fishermen who dive for abalone. Mr Hoy: We will just need to check the sequence of meetings with them.

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response.

The model WHS Regulations and first stage Codes of Practice were released for public comment for four months between December 2010 and 4 April 2011.

The following consultation has occurring with the diving sector:

- On 25 November 2010 a representative from Safe Work Australia met with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Association to discuss the draft model WHS Regulations on Diving.
- On 17 March 2011 representatives of Safe Work Australia met with the Executive Director of the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS), to discuss the draft model WHS Regulations on Diving. Prior to that there had been a number of telephone conversations with the Executive Director regarding the regulations.
- On 17 March 2011 representatives from Safe Work Australia met with representatives from a number of dive fishing industries in Western Australia, including the Fishing Industry Council, Abalone Industry Association, Western Rock Lobster Council and Aquaculture Council to discuss the draft model WHS Regulations on Diving.
- On 17 May 2011 representatives of Safe Work Australia met with the Executive Director of the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS), to discuss the draft model WHS Regulations on Diving.

- Between 15 August 2011 and 16 September 2011 the draft model WHS Code of Practice for Diving Work was sent for comment to a range of interested parties including:
 - the Abalone Council Australia
 - the Tasmanian Abalone Council Australia,
 - the Aquaculture Council WA,
 - Pearl Producers Association and the Abalone Industry Association of WA.
 - University of NSW
 - University of Queensland
 - Cairns Marine
 - Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
 - Quicksilver Group
 - Parks Victoria
 - Queensland Police

- On 24 February 2012 representatives from Safe Work Australia attended via teleconference the Board of Abalone Council Australia Ltd to discuss the model WHS Regulations on Diving and the draft model WHS Code of Practice for Diving Work.