

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Agency - Safe Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0774\_13**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Progress of harmonisation of OHS laws**

Can the report that has been provided to DEEWR in relation to the progress against COAG timelines for the harmonisation of occupational health and safety laws be provided to the committee?

**Answer**

*Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:*

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has the responsibility for reporting to various groups on the progress of harmonisation of work health and safety (WHS) laws against the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) milestones. DEEWR prepares these reports and seeks input from Safe Work Australia where necessary. Reporting has occurred through:

- the Select Council on Workplace Relations (the Ministerial Council) who report to COAG on their work plan including work health and safety harmonisation
- the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG) who provide a report card to COAG on the progress of 27 deregulation priorities associated with the National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy available at: [www.coag.gov.au/node/432](http://www.coag.gov.au/node/432), and
- the COAG Reform Council who report to COAG on the progress of reforms including work health and safety harmonisation.

Safe Work Australia has made numerous contributions to these reports since development of the model WHS laws commenced in 2009. Safe Work Australia does not have a single report to provide to the Senate Standing Committee.

Safe Work Australia also reports on harmonisation against COAG timelines in its Annual Reports.