

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0459_14

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management

In respect to the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2013-2018 adopted by Cabinet in June 2012, what is the process the government is following to ensure the implementation of the Plan?

Answer

The *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013* requires a National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness.

On 31 July 2013 the previous government released a National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2013 – 2018. The Government notes that this was just prior to the caretaker period commencing.

At the Select Council on Workplace Relations meeting of 1 November 2013, a number of Ministers raised concerns with aspects of the Plan and asked that further consultations be undertaken. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency is currently undertaking further consultations.

The Government considers it is critical that the Plan sets realistic and achievable targets that are embraced by state and territory governments.

To date, no state or territory government has signed up to the Plan as is.