

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0041_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety laws

Has analysis been done on the costs of retraining workers following the harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety laws? a. If so, what was the result of that analysis?
b. If not, why not?

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:

As part of developing the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws, Safe Work Australia is required to assess the impact of the laws through a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). The result of this analysis for the model WHS Bill is included in the Decision RIS which is available on the Safe Work Australia website at <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Publications/Pages/PC200912DecisionRegulationImpactstatementForMOHSAct.aspx>

No specific information on the costs of retraining workers following the harmonisation of WHS laws was provided during the model WHS Bill public consultation process.

For the draft model WHS Regulations, a Consultation RIS was released with the public comment versions of the draft model regulations and codes of practice and is available on the Safe Work Australia website at <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/Legislation/AdministrativeRegulations/Pages/Model%20work%20health%20and%20safety%20Regulations.aspx>

The final analysis for the model Work Health and Safety Regulations and model Codes of Practice, taking account of public comment, is currently being developed and will be published in the Decision RIS for the model WHS Regulations and Codes of Practice on completion.