

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2

Question: E12-038

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NICNAS – Industry dissatisfaction – Cost to Industry

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Smith

Question:

- a) What is the status of the agency's latest Cost Recovery Impact Statement issued late last year?
- b) Is it true that this Statement foreshadows a 23% increase in charges against businesses you regulate?
- c) What's the justification for such a large increase, in light of the difficulties facing businesses and the economy at present?
- d) Reforms arising from the 2008 Productivity Commission study of chemical regulation were also promised how many of these are still yet to be delivered?
- e) It's claimed by industry that some supposed reforms that have been delivered have been implemented in a way that increased the compliance burden on industry contrary to the intention of the supposed 'reforms and the recommendations' of the Productivity Commission?

Answer:

- a) to d)
Answered by Dr Healy at Hearing – see Hansard Page 89, 31 May 2012.
- e) As part of a Better Regulation Ministerial Partnership, a review is underway to explore possible options for reforming the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme. This review will have particular regard to the recommendations of the *Productivity Commission Research Report: Chemicals and Plastics Regulation, July 2008* in the context of the Australian Government response, noted by COAG. Industry is being consulted during the review process.