

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT
Inquiry into the Performance of Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

Answers to questions taken on notice at the Committee hearing on 25 September 2019

Question (4 of 9):

Senator Sterle:

Is sea search and rescue incidents recorded and does that information come to you?

Answer:

Information received by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Response centre includes:

- telephone calls made to and from AMSA's published search and rescue numbers (02 6230 6811 maritime, 02 6239 6899 aviation); and
- high frequency radio – Digital Selective Calls (HF-DSC) received by AMSA's contracted HF-DSC service provider Kordia Pty Ltd.

Incident information is recorded electronically in the AMSA Response Centre's incident management system and is used for a number of purposes, including operational response, post incident review and development of AMSA analytical and statistical reports.

The organisations that comprise Australia's search and rescue system are primarily AMSA, the Australian Defence Force and federal, state and territory police services. Supporting the primary organisations at the state and territory level are a number of additional organisations (for example volunteer marine rescue organisations). How these agencies work together is set out in an Inter-Governmental Agreement between AMSA, the Australian Defence Force and state and territory police services.

Not all incidents responded to at the state and territory level are notified to AMSA.

It is AMSA's understanding that in Western Australia volunteer marine organisations record their activity in what is referred to as a WAMSAR incident report. These reports are provided to Western Australian Police. Depending on the nature of the incident it is at the discretion of Police as to whether AMSA is advised and whether assistance is sought. It is also AMSA's understanding that all metropolitan Volunteer Marine Rescue units have a call and record capability. However, smaller volunteer marine rescue units in country areas do not.