

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000589

OUTCOME: 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: Assessment of Chemicals in Cosmetics

Type of Question: Hansard Page 29, 2 June 2015

Senator: Ruston, Anne

Question:

Do we know how many animals were used last year for the purpose of testing for the safety of cosmetics in Australia?

Answer:

Tests involving the use of animals are not required to determine the safety of formulated cosmetic products in Australia. However, chemicals used as cosmetic ingredients are subject to regulation under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the ICNA Act).

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) does not collect information on the reason that an animal test was commissioned. NICNAS can therefore not be certain from the applications whether animal tests were undertaken for the purposes of introduction into an overseas jurisdiction or whether tests were undertaken expressly for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of the ICNA Act.

However, in the 2013-14 financial year, all animal studies on chemicals submitted for assessment under the 'Standard' notification category were conducted overseas between 1991 and 2010, with the majority being conducted before 2009 when the animal testing ban commenced in the European Union. Therefore, it appears unlikely that the studies were undertaken specifically to meet the requirements for introduction of the chemical into Australia.