

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question:** E12-276

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS ASSOCIATED WITH COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 54, 17 October 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Waters

**Question:**

Could you on notice provide me with a breakdown of who is getting what to do what?

**Answer:**

A total of \$4.2 million has been provided for Stage One of the project 'A Comprehensive National Assessment of the Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction, including Risks Associated with Surface Handling of Chemicals in Hydraulic Fracturing and Flowback/Produced Waters'. This stage is expected to take approximately 18 months. Partner agencies to this project are the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), the Department of Sustainability Environment Water Populations and Communities Chemicals Assessment Section (CAS) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), which will receive \$1,537,802; \$793,765 and \$1,823,069 respectively.

NICNAS is taking the lead role in managing, implementing and undertaking the risk assessment for the project. CAS is primarily responsible for the environmental chemical risk assessments. CSIRO's contribution to these assessments will be the provision of predictive and spatial modeling (development of risk simulator models) and conducting laboratory investigations for the assessment of geogenic contaminants resulting from Coal Seam Gas Extraction.