

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 27**

**Topic:           Manufacturing Taskforce Report**

**Hansard Page:       Tuesday 4 June 2013, Page 112**

**Senator MADIGAN asked:**

**Senator MADIGAN:** In the February estimates I asked the ACCC the following question regarding recommendation 15 in the Prime Minister's manufacturing task force report. Recommendation 15 is made partly on the basis that there should be an increased priority given to addressing misleading claims of conformity with Australian regulations and standards. My question was: 'With regards to imports, can you advise how many instances of false or misleading claims of adherence to Australian standards were referred to the ACCC?' Mr Sims, you took the question on notice and, in time, I received this answer. I will not read it as it is a bit long, but basically it gives details of what the ACCC enforces and what the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 prohibits and details the 45 contacts raising questions on standards received by the ACCC in the 12 months after 1 January 2012. It also stated that none of these contacts alleged false or misleading statements associated with the goods. With regard to the answer supplied, can you advise me how many referrals the ACCC received regarding false and/or misleading advertising of Australian standards in the year prior to January 2012.

**Mr Ridgway:** I do not have that detail to hand. I think we might have to take that question on notice.

**Mr Sims:** We will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

In the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011, the ACCC received 12 contacts which raised questions or concerns about the standards applicable to certain imported products. Of these contacts:

- 9 were from potential importers inquiring about the application of a standard to items they were seeking to import
- 1 involved concerns about whether certain products met appropriate Australian standards, and
- 2 were from consumers who wanted to clarify standards on products they have imported.

None of these contacts alleged false or misleading statements associated with the goods.