

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000207

Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing.

Question

SWA - AgVet chemicals compliance with WHS regulations

Relevant industry bodies and Australian farmer organisations accept in good faith that an honest mistake was made by SWA and the Department of Employment by not continuing the recognition of AgVet chemicals as complying with WHS regulations. All that is now required is for SWA to acknowledge this mistake and attempt to fix the problem by working with the Department of Employment and the SWA Board to reapply the recognition that APVMA approved labels comply with WHS regulations. When can we expect this transformative process to begin?

Answer

Safe Work Australia does not agree with the statement that a mistake was made by Safe Work Australia and the Department of Employment. Safe Work Australia Members made their policy decision following normal consultative processes including a regulation impact assessment.

Safe Work Australia Members have reconsidered the policy decision on a number of occasions as a result of representations from and on behalf of the AgVet chemicals industry. On every occasion Safe Work Australia Members have reconfirmed their original policy decision.