

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000211

Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing.

Question

SWA - Consultation with APVMA

When has SWA consulted with the APVMA, the Department of Agriculture, or the Department of Education, regarding the adequacy of APVMA labelling for worker health and safety? Has SWA communicated in these consultations options to ensure that APVMA labelling is adequate for worker health and safety?

Answer

Safe Work Australia has consulted with, and continues to consult with the APVMA, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Employment—formerly the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)—in relation to agricultural and veterinary chemical labelling and worker health and safety.

In 2009 a technical working group comprising the APVMA, DEEWR, Safe Work Australia and the Department of Health was established to discuss the application of the full suite of label elements to AgVet chemicals as required for other workplace hazardous chemicals.

The deliberations of this working group determined that only the hazard and precautionary statements are required on agricultural and veterinary chemical labels to ensure that labels are adequate for ensuring worker health and safety. This decision was implemented in the model Work Health and Safety Regulations.