

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004343

Senator Roberts provided in writing.

Question

Cost benefit analysis of Government health and safety regulations

Has government health & safety protection regulation been subject to cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) including the many under-stated costs such as those from unintended consequences, bureaucracy and the 'baptists & bootleggers' phenomenon?

Answer

Yes, work health and safety regulations have been subject to cost-benefit analysis.

Regulation Impact Statements (RIS) are required to be undertaken for all Cabinet submissions or any non-Cabinet decision made by any Australian Government entity if that decision is likely to have a measurable impact on businesses, community organisations, individuals or any combination of them. A similar requirement exists for state and territory government entities.

For example, a RIS was prepared for the implementation of Australia's harmonised work health and safety (WHS) regulations and codes of practice in 2011.

The full Decision RIS, including a cost-benefit analysis of the WHS regulations and codes of practice, is available on the Safe Work Australia website at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.