

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000389

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Building Code Amendment Instrument 2015 - identified substances

Are you aware if the substances listed on page 3 are contained in any prescription medicines? For example, ADHD medicine? And, why were the substances on page 3 those which were selected? Is there any medical evidence you've relied upon?

Answer

A fitness for work policy required under the Building Code 2013 could outline the process for workers to declare any medication that have been taking prior to the testing. The policy could also provide for the consequences for a worker not declaring medication and subsequently the drug class being detected at the screening.

The list of substances identified in the Building Code 2013 was selected because they are substances known to cause problems such as drowsiness, cognitive and coordination impairment, and anxiety, irritability or aggression. There are also known objective testing methods for detecting these substances.

The list of substances is consistent with relevant Australian Standards, ie AS 4760-2006 – *Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid* and AS/NZS 4308:2008 – *Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine*.