

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. EMSQ15-000394

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Building Code Amendment Instrument 2015 - Consultation

Did you consult with the ACTU or the major construction unions in the making of the regulation? If not, why not?

Answer

In developing the amendments to the Building Code, the Department of Employment undertook careful analysis of the policy *Drug and Alcohol Management Program*. This policy was developed by the Building Industry Group – Trades Union Safety Alliance. This group comprises the Electrical Trades Union; the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union; the Plumbing Trades Employee Union; and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union.

The Regulation Impact Statement sets out the consultation undertaken in relation to the change to the Building Code 2013 concerning the management of alcohol and other drugs on construction sites.

There is widespread industry support, including from unions, for encouraging higher standards of workplace safety through the requirement for policies which include testing for alcohol and other drugs.

The unions' position in relation to this issue is well known, and publicly stated.

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union announced on 26 March 2015 that it supported an impairment policy for the industry, which includes testing for alcohol and other drugs.