

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0780_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Implementation of harmonised OHS laws

Have any implementation issues been identified in relation to the harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety laws?

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:

Since 1 January 2012 Safe Work Australia has been monitoring the implementation of the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act and Regulations through a consultative forum representing Safe Work Australia Members.

Safe Work Australia also established a dedicated mailbox for jurisdictions to raise any implementation issues.

A small number of workability issues associated with the model WHS Regulations were identified by various jurisdictions and have been addressed by technical amendments to the model WHS Regulations. These include clarifying some definitions to reflect the intended policy and correcting inadvertent omissions. The majority of the amendments relate to the regulations for plant.

Jurisdictions that have implemented the model WHS laws have enacted their own laws that mirror the model provisions as much as possible, given their individual parliamentary and other law-making processes.