

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0045_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Occupational Health and Safety Harmonisation

Does the Government agree that although there will be no substantial costs to workers but an additional cost for training and additional safety equipment will be placed on employers?

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response.

The Government does not anticipate there will be substantial costs to workers as a result of introducing the Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws. In relation to costs for training and safety equipment that will be placed on persons conducting a business or undertaking as a consequence of implementing the model legislation, these matters will be considered as part of the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) being developed for the model Work Health and Safety Regulations.

For the draft model WHS Regulations, a Consultation RIS was released with the public comment versions of the draft model regulations and codes of practice and is available on the Safe Work Australia website at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/Legislation/AdministrativeRegulations/Pages/Model%20work%20health%20and%20safety%20Regulations.aspx.

The final analysis for the model Work Health and Safety Regulations and model Codes of Practice, taking account of public comment, is currently being developed and will be published in the Decision RIS for the model WHS Regulations and Codes of Practice on completion.