

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000315

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Red tape reduction

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
 - b. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
 - c. How have they been recruited?
 - d. What process was used for their appointment?
 - e. What is the total cost of this unit?
 - f. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
 - g. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
 - h. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
 - i. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer

1. Comcare has commenced work on the adoption of the national Permanent Impairment Guide for the Comcare workers compensation scheme. The guide was released by Safe Work Australia in 2015. Adoption of the guide will generate savings for employers, medical practitioners and claims managers working in the Comcare scheme.
 - a. The new Permanent Impairment Guide has been developed and is expected to be released in 2016.
 - b. Comcare has not established a unit for the adoption of the Permanent Impairment Guide or any other red tape reduction activities.
 - c - i. Not applicable.