

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: MOP(S) Act Staff Comcare Claims

Senator: Bernardi

Question reference number: F29

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 105-106, 19 November 2013

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

CHAIR: How many staff employed under the MOP(S) Act have lodged a claim under the Comcare scheme this financial year?

Ms Moy: We do not have that information for this calendar year. We will have to take it on notice.

CHAIR: You might also advise me how many of these claims were accepted by Comcare, and what was the total amount paid out for these claims. I ask that you break these figures down by individual amounts, and that way I will be able to identify the highest amount paid out.

Ms Moy: But, again, not against an individual person.

CHAIR: Not against an individual. I am also interested in the figures being broken down by claim type—for example, if there was mental stress or psychological injury, trips, falls, broken bones, people crashing in kitchens—you may have tuned into that yesterday.

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CHAIR: It is overcrowded kitchens—if I am concerned about MOP(S) employees you should be supporting me, Senator Wong. Ms Moy, can these figures be broken down by who the employing member or senator was at the time these claims were made.

Senator WONG: This is all being taken on notice. I ask that we do consider privacy issues. I assumed we were not going to be wanting, from any side of parliament, to identify persons' personal injury details. I assume the department will judge how they want to extract the information, but there is a risk if you do it by employer—that arguably makes it reasonably easy to ascertain. I put that on record and you can make a decision about that.

Ms Moy: Yes, Senator.

CHAIR: The questions are on notice and I am sure the department will make an appropriate determination, given the Privacy Act.

Answer:

As at 19 November 2013, four claims have been lodged by MOP(S) Act employees with Comcare this financial year.

Mechanism of Injury	Cost to date as at 19 November 2013
Other Mental Stress Factors	\$297.00
Work Pressure	\$129.00
Falls from a height	\$11,876.00
Being hit by moving objects	\$3265.50

It would not be appropriate to identify the offices involved, or the outcome of the claim due to the possibility that the individuals could be identified.