

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0721_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

TIMING OF REVISED GUIDELINES

If this is a pre-cursor to a harmonised approach why was it done prior to SafeWorkAustralia beginning the process?

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response

The review was not initiated as a pre-cursor to a harmonised approach to OHS laws. The decision to initiate a review was made by the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) in December 2008. In March 2009, Comcare engaged consultants to undertake the review of the program. The objectives of the review were to provide advice to SRCC on the:

- (a) capacity of the current accreditation model to deliver best practice for the HSR education and training to the jurisdiction
- (b) effectiveness of the assessment process in delivering cost effective and quality training courses to the jurisdiction. This could include such issues as examination of the role of the OHS Training Panel and governance arrangements, i.e. the Commission's role and the role of Comcare
- (c) capacity of the learning objectives contained in the Guidelines to provide HSRs with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake their roles as prescribed in the Act.

That is, the primary goal of the revision of the guidelines was to deliver best practice for HSR education and training for the jurisdiction.