

## Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

#### Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0086\_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

#### Question

#### Reviewing The Wrong Guidelines

Documents to be tabled: •SRCC Minutes (doc 1-17) •HSR Course Accreditation Guidelines 2007 (doc 501) •Final Report by Stoker and Wright 2009 (doc 500) Please refer to section 2.2 of the SRCC minutes of Meeting 81 on 14 December 2005 (Doc 1-17). Please refer to section 3.2 of the 2007 course accreditation guidelines (doc 501). An extract is below. Please refer to section 1.2 of the report by Stoker and Wright (2009) (Doc 500). An extract is below. Questions: 1.At 1.2 of their report, do Stoker and Wright (2009) refer to the November 1991 version of the guidelines? 2.Why did Comcare give the reviewers out of date guidelines dated November 1991? 3.How can the review be valid when it was based on the wrong guidelines? 4.The flexible provisions were introduced by the SRCC deliberately in December 2005 to encourage a better variety of options – how can the review be valid when the guidelines reviewed were not the current guidelines? 5.Were the guidelines current at the time of the review the 2007 guidelines? 6.Why were the reviewers misled? 7.How can there recommendations make any sense when they were based on the wrong starting material?

#### Answer

*Comcare has provided the following response.*

1. Yes.
2. Comcare gave the reviewers the current (2007) guidelines in hardcopy (and they are referred to in the report on page 12).
3. The review, conducted in 2009, looked at the process in place at the time, that is, the process that was based on the 2007 guidelines.
4. The review, conducted in 2009, looked at the process in place at the time, that is, the process that was based on the 2007 guidelines.
5. Yes.
6. The reviewers were in possession of the 2007 guidelines.
7. The recommendations were based on the reviewers' evaluation of the process in place at the time.