

The Senate

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Education and Employment  
Legislation Committee

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Annual reports (No. 1 of 2016)

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# MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

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Senator the Hon David Johnston, LP, WA

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Senator Robert Simms, AG, SA

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

1.1 This is the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee's (the committee) first report on annual reports for 2016. It provides an overview of annual reports of agencies within the allocated portfolios tabled between 1 May 2015 and 31 October 2015.

### Terms of reference

1.2 This report was prepared pursuant to Standing Order 25(20) relating to the consideration of annual reports by committees, which states:

Annual reports of departments and agencies shall stand referred to the committees in accordance with an allocation of departments and agencies in a resolution of the Senate. Each committee shall:

- (a) Examine each annual report referred to it and report to the Senate whether the report is apparently satisfactory.
- (b) Consider in more detail, and report to the Senate on, each annual report which is not apparently satisfactory, and on the other annual reports which it selects for more detailed consideration.
- (c) Investigate and report to the Senate on any lateness in the presentation of annual reports.
- (d) In considering an annual report, take into account any relevant remarks about the report made in debate in the Senate.
- (e) If the committee so determines, consider annual reports of departments and budget-related agencies in conjunction with examination of estimates.
- (f) Report on annual reports tabled by 31 October each year by the tenth sitting day of the following year, and on annual reports tabled by 30 April each year by the tenth sitting day after 30 June of that year.
- (g) Draw to the attention of the Senate any significant matters relating to the operations and performance of the bodies furnishing the annual reports.
- (h) Report to the Senate each year whether there are any bodies which do not present annual reports to the Senate and which should present such reports.

### Allocated portfolios

1.3 In accordance with the resolution of the Senate on 12 November 2013, the committee has oversight of the following portfolios:

- Education and Training; and
- Employment.<sup>1</sup>

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1 *Journals of the Senate*, No.1, 12 November 2013, p. 15.

## **Role of annual reports**

1.4 Annual reports place information about government departments and agencies on the public record in relation to the performance, activities, management and financial position of the reporting body. They are a primary accountability mechanism and assist the Parliament in the effective examination of the performance of departments and agencies, and the administration of government programs.

## **Annual reporting requirements**

1.5 On 1 July 2014, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) replaced the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act). The PGPA Act consolidates the governance, performance and accountability requirements contained in the FMA Act and the CAC Act. It also establishes a performance reporting framework for all Commonwealth entities and companies.

1.6 Annual reporting requirements for non-corporate and corporate Commonwealth entities are set out in section 46 of the PGPA Act, including that annual reports must comply with any requirements prescribed by the rules. Section 97 prescribes the annual reporting requirements for Commonwealth companies.

1.7 However, as with 2013-14 annual reports, 2014-15 annual reports were prepared under the arrangements existing at 30 June 2014 as follows:

- for non-corporate Commonwealth entities (departments, executive agencies and statutory agencies): the *Public Service Act 1999*, sub-sections 63(2) and 70(2), and the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, section 65; other relevant enabling legislation for statutory bodies; and the Requirements for Annual Reports;
- for corporate Commonwealth entities: the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011* prescribe material that must be included in corporate entities' annual reports. These Orders continue to apply to 2014–15 annual reports under the PGPA (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Rule;
- for Commonwealth companies: the *Commonwealth Companies (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011* prescribe material that must be included in corporate entities' annual reports. These Orders continue to apply to 2014–15 annual reports under the PGPA (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Rule; and
- for non-statutory bodies: the guidelines are contained in the government response to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration Report on Non-Statutory bodies.<sup>2</sup>

## ***Requirements for annual reports for 2014-15***

1.8 Annual reports are prepared in accordance with the Requirements for Annual Reports. These requirements are reviewed annually by the Department of Prime

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2 *Senate Hansard*, 8 December 1987, p. 2632-2645.



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Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA).

1.9 Significant amendments to the most recent Requirements for Annual Reports relate to:

- Small Business Procurement—three requirements have been added to reflect the Government's commitment to improve small business access to Commonwealth contracts; and
- Indigenous Employment—reporting on 'Indigenous Employment' has been added to the existing requirement to report on the Management of Human Resources.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Future changes to the Requirements for Annual Reports***

1.10 As noted in the Requirements for Annual Reports issued on 25 June 2015:

Significant revisions to the Requirements are anticipated for the 2015–16 financial year with the commencement of the performance reporting model under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).<sup>4</sup>

### **Annual reports referred**

1.11 In accordance with Senate Standing Order 25(20) this report examines those annual reports tabled between 1 May 2015 and 31 October 2015. The committee examined the following reports:

#### ***Departments of State***

- Department of Employment—Annual Report 2014-15; and
- Department of Education and Training—Annual Report 2014-15, including annual reports of the:
  - Tuition Protection Service;
  - Trade Support Loans; and
  - Student Identifiers Office.

#### ***Non-corporate Commonwealth entities under the PGPA Act***

- Australian Research Council—Annual Report 2014-15;
- Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)—Report for 2014-15
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)—Report for 2014-15;

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3 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies, and other Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities*, 25 June 2015, p. i.

4 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies, and other Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities*, 25 June 2015, p. i.

- Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority—Seacare—Annual Report 2014-15;
- Fair Work Commission—Annual Report 2014-15;
- Fair Work Ombudsman—Report for 2014-15;
- Fair Work Building and Construction—Annual Report 2014 -15; and
- Safe Work Australia—Annual Report 2014-15.

#### ***Corporate Commonwealth entities under the PGPA Act***

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies—Annual Report 2014-15;
- Australian National University—Annual Report 2014; and
- Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission—Annual Report 2014-15.

#### ***Other statutory authorities/bodies not under the PGPA Act***

- Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 2014-15.

#### **Reports not examined**

1.12 The committee is not obliged to report on Acts, statements of corporate intent, surveys, policy papers, budget documents, corporate plans or errata. Accordingly, the following documents were referred to the committee but are not examined in this report:

- Departmental Report—Review of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority;
- Australian Research Council—Corporate plan 2015-16 to 2018-19;
- Human Trafficking and Slavery Interdepartmental Committee—Seventh report—Trafficking in persons: The Australian Government response, 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;
- Final budget outcome 2014-15—Report by the Treasurer (Mr Hockey) and the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann); and
- Finance—Advances provided under the annual Appropriation Acts—Report for 2014-15—Letter of advice.

#### **Method of Assessment**

1.13 Senate Standing Order 25(20) requires the committee to examine the annual reports referred to it to determine whether they are timely and 'apparently satisfactory'. In making this assessment, the committee considers whether the reports comply with the relevant legislation and requirements for the preparation of annual reports.

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## Timeliness

1.14 Annual reports must be presented by the responsible Minister to each House of Parliament on or before 31 October each year.<sup>5</sup> The Requirements for Annual Reports also note that '[i]f Senate Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings are scheduled to occur prior to 31 October, it is best practice for annual reports to be tabled prior to those hearings.'<sup>6</sup> In 2015, hearings for the committee's portfolios commenced on 21 October.

1.15 The committee recognises that some agencies are required to comply with other timeframes stipulated in their enabling legislation. Nonetheless, the committee reminds all agencies that it is the Government's policy that annual reports be tabled by 31 October each year.

1.16 Annual reports examined in this report were presented in the Parliament in a timely manner, that is, by 31 October 2015.

1.17 Appendix 1 lists the annual reports presented to Parliament between 1 May and 31 October 2015, and referred to the committee, with relevant tabling dates.

## Senate debate

1.18 Senate Standing Order 25(20) requires the committee to take into account any relevant remarks about the reports made in debate in the Senate. The committee notes that none of the annual reports examined in this report have been the subject of comments or debate in the Senate.

## Bodies not presenting annual reports to the Senate

1.19 The committee is required to report to the Senate each year on whether there are any bodies not presenting annual reports to the Senate which should. The committee is satisfied that there are no such bodies at this time.

## General comments on reports

1.20 The committee has examined all annual reports referred during the reporting period and has found them to be of a satisfactory standard and largely compliant with the relevant requirements. The committee considers the reports examined to be 'apparently satisfactory'.

1.21 The committee suggests that in future departments and agencies note in their annual reports work undertaken with regard to providing benefits to regional Australia.

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5 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies, and other Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities*, 25 June 2015, p. 2.

6 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies, and other Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities*, 25 June 2015, p. 2.



# Chapter 2

## Review of annual reports

2.1 This chapter examines selected annual reports in greater detail, and provides the Senate with information that may be of interest. The following reports are discussed in this chapter:

- Department of Education and Training;
- Australian Skills Quality Authority;
- Australian National University;
- Department of Employment;
- Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission; and
- Safe Work Australia.

### Department of Education and Training

2.2 The Department of Education and Training (the Department) has portfolio responsibilities for national policies and programs to help Australians access quality early learning, school education, higher education, vocational education and training, and international education and research.<sup>1</sup> In 2014-15, the Department sought to achieve strongly against four goals; to support quality early learning and school, to excel through knowledge, to build skills and capability and to enable business areas.<sup>2</sup>

2.3 A priority for the Department in 2014-15 was working with states, territories and national agencies to deliver the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) online from 2017.<sup>3</sup> Moving NAPLAN assessments online will allow individual tests to be tailored according to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents more accurate information regarding student performance.<sup>4</sup> This tailored approach will enhance opportunities for teachers to help students develop fundamental literacy and numeracy skills.<sup>5</sup>

2.4 There was an emphasis in 2014-15 on enhancing teaching of foreign languages.<sup>6</sup> The Department commenced the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) trial in 41 services offering a preschool programme. The trial will provide

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1 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 2.

2 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 2-3.

3 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 17.

4 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 31.

5 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 31.

6 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 17.

over 1600 preschool children across Australia with the opportunity to test new applications designed to develop recognition skills of a foreign language through play based learning.<sup>7</sup> The aim of the trial is to determine the effectiveness of early exposure to languages through online programmes.<sup>8</sup> Three learning applications have been released to date and include a number of the major languages other than English spoken in Australia.<sup>9</sup>

2.5 In 2014-15, the Department has worked to implement the Government's vocational education and training (VET) reform agenda, with a focus on improving the quality of training and job outcomes for students.<sup>10</sup> National consultations with stakeholders on VET were carried out in early 2015 and have been a key element of each step in the VET reform process.<sup>11</sup> As part of the reform implementation process, the Department introduced a number of measures aimed at supporting Australian apprentices.<sup>12</sup> One of these measures is the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (the Apprenticeships Network). Commencing on 1 July 2015, the Apprenticeships Network aims to increase apprenticeship completion rates by delivering tailored advice and support to apprentices and employers.<sup>13</sup>

2.6 The Department of Education Strategic Plan 2014-17 was launched in July 2014, setting out the Department's goals and overarching vision of 'opportunity through learning'.<sup>14</sup> The strategic plan describes the Department's pathways, values and culture. It also includes the Department's commitment to improving education outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.<sup>15</sup>

2.7 The committee finds the Department's annual report to be compliant with reporting requirements and easy to navigate.

### **Australian Skills Quality Authority**

2.8 The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) was established on 1 July 2011 under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* and supplementary legislation.<sup>16</sup> The agency was transferred to the Education and Training portfolio in December 2014 following machinery of government changes arising from

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7 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 18.

8 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 26.

9 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 27.

10 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 39.

11 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 66.

12 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 65.

13 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 65-66.

14 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 74.

15 Department of Education and Training, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 74.

16 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 4.

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the Administrative Arrangements Order of 23 December 2014. ASQA is the national VET regulator with responsibilities for maintaining the strength and reputation of Australia's VET sector.<sup>17</sup>

2.9 ASQA received a total of 6079 applications in relation to registration as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) during the 2014-15 reporting period.<sup>18</sup> This represents a decrease of 20.2 per cent from the 2013-2014 year.<sup>19</sup> This decrease has been largely attributed to a reduction in the number of applications from providers to change their registration, which has in turn resulted from the equivalent training package reform.<sup>20</sup> Implemented on 1 July 2014, the equivalent training package reform means that when a training package product is updated, and this updated product is considered to be 'equivalent' to the former version, it is automatically added to the provider's scope of registration.<sup>21</sup> This is one of a suite of seven reforms implemented by ASQA as part of the Australian Government's VET Regulatory Reform agenda.<sup>22</sup>

2.10 A key issue in the VET sector in 2014-15 was the marketing employed by approved VET FEE-HELP providers.<sup>23</sup> A high number of complaints received during the reporting period were related to the marketing of providers and courses to vulnerable individuals.<sup>24</sup> Marketing issues represent 13.9 per cent of the complaints received by ASQA since its establishment, making it the second most common complaint category.<sup>25</sup> In line with the government's VET Regulatory Reform agenda, the new standards for RTOs, which came into effect on 1 April 2015, include explicit requirements for providers' marketing and advertising.<sup>26</sup>

2.11 The committee commends ASQA for a well presented and accessible report.

### **Australian National University**

2.12 The Australian National University (ANU) is a research-intensive education institute initially established by an Act of parliament in 1946.<sup>27</sup> ANU's functions are

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17 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 4.

18 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 21.

19 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 21.

20 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 21.

21 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 17.

22 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 17.

23 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 17.

24 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 45.

25 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 44.

26 Australian Skills Quality Authority, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 40.

27 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 82.

set out by the *Australian National University Act 1991* (ANU Act).<sup>28</sup> The University is governed by the ANU Council who, under the ANU Act, may enact Statutes to regulate matters relating to the operations of the University.<sup>29</sup>

2.13 In his introduction, Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Ian Young AO noted that the first cohort of students studying a flexible double degree began in 2014.<sup>30</sup> These degrees allow students to combine two Bachelor degrees of their choice.<sup>31</sup> In 2014, a total of 3027 students enrolled in flexible double degrees, representing 38 per cent of the undergraduate cohort for the reporting period.<sup>32</sup>

2.14 Professor Young also noted that the number of international enrolments at the University had increased by 8.5 per cent from 2013.<sup>33</sup> A total of 6097 international enrolments were recorded across both undergraduate and postgraduate programs as compared to 5590 the previous year.<sup>34</sup> Students from North-East Asia made up the largest portion of international enrolments, representing more than half of the reported total.<sup>35</sup>

2.15 The committee considers that the ANU has met its reporting requirements. However, the committee notes that while ANU's annual report contains an index, a compliance index would have greatly enhanced the report's accessibility.

## **Department of Employment**

2.16 The Department of Employment (the Department) has portfolio responsibilities for national policies and programmes that assist Australians in finding and keeping employment and to work in safe and fair workplaces.<sup>36</sup> The Department's vision—More Jobs. Great Workplaces.—is built on the government's plans for stronger economic growth. The Department aims to achieve this vision through the provision of effective advice on policies that aim to create jobs and assist job seekers in finding employment.<sup>37</sup>

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28 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 82.

29 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 104.

30 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 6.

31 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 26.

32 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 27.

33 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 6.

34 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 61.

35 Australian National University, *Annual Report 2014*, p. 61.

36 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 1.

37 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 2.



2.17 A focus for the Department in 2014-15 was designing the new employment services model, Jobactive.<sup>38</sup> The new programme, implemented on 1 July 2015, replaces the Job Services Australia programme.<sup>39</sup> Jobactive is comprised of five services that are designed to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of jobseekers and employers. Specifically, the programme aims to ensure that job seekers better meet the needs of employers; increase job seeker engagement by introducing stronger mutual obligation requirements; increase job outcomes for unemployed Australians; and reduce prescription and red tape for service providers.<sup>40</sup>

2.18 The Work for the Dole programme makes up one component of the new Jobactive system. In her review, Ms Renée Leon, Secretary for the Department of Employment, highlighted the Work for the Dole programme as part of Jobactive and noted that 53 forums were held for potential host organisations in May and June 2015.<sup>41</sup> The programme, which was phased in in 18 selected areas from 1 July 2014, is designed to assist job seekers in gaining the skills and experience necessary to move from welfare to work and to make a positive contribution to their local community.<sup>42</sup>

2.19 During the 2014-15 reporting period, the Jobactive programme achieved 92 per cent of its expected number of commencements and 135 per cent of its expected number of places sourced.<sup>43</sup> Following a competitive tender process, 19 Work for the Dole Coordinators commenced work nationally on 1 May 2015. Coordinators will aim to source suitable Work for the Dole activities for participants in both not-for-profit and government sectors.<sup>44</sup>

2.20 In 2014-15, the Department undertook substantial process improvements in relation to the administration of the Fair Entitlements Guarantee programme. These improvements aim to reduce the wait time for workers seeking assistance under the scheme as well as ensure accurate and timely payments.<sup>45</sup> A total of \$301.04 million was paid to 18 849 claimants under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee during the reporting period.<sup>46</sup>

2.21 The committee considers the Department to have met its reporting obligations and compliments it on a well-structured annual report.

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38 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 8.

39 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 10.

40 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 11.

41 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 3.

42 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 15.

43 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 15.

44 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 11.

45 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 42.

46 Department of Employment, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 43.

## **Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission**

2.22 Comcare and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) are both established under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and jointly oversee the Comcare scheme.<sup>47</sup> Comcare also has functions and responsibilities under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and is the sole regulator of work health and safety in the scheme.<sup>48</sup> Comcare's overarching role is to have a positive impact on reducing and preventing injury and harm in the workplace.<sup>49</sup>

2.23 In 2014-15, 6.7 work-related injury claims per 1000 FTE employees were recorded by the Comcare scheme, representing a drop of 13 per cent from the previous year.<sup>50</sup> Comcare also received 10 notifiable worker fatalities; however no death claims were accepted during the reporting period.<sup>51</sup>

2.24 Comcare continued to work with industry stakeholders through its Health Benefits for Work (HBoW) programme. The programme aims to promote working as part of recovery from injury or illness.<sup>52</sup> In early 2015, an HBoW advisory group was established in order to provide strategic direction and support the aims of the programme.<sup>53</sup> Comcare also appointed the agency's first Work for Health Advisor to drive engagement in the areas of employment, injury insurance, health and social welfare.<sup>54</sup>

2.25 The committee finds Comcare and the SRCC's annual report to be clearly presented and informative.

## **Safe Work Australia**

2.26 Safe Work Australia is a statutory agency established under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*. It is the national body responsible for developing policy strategies

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47 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 20.

48 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 20.

49 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 20.

50 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 39.

51 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 39.

52 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 72.

53 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 72.

54 Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 72.

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to improve Australia's work health and safety conditions and workers' compensation.<sup>55</sup> Safe Work Australia is funded through both the Commonwealth and state and territory governments. While Safe Work Australia does not carry out any regulatory functions in regard to work health and safety, the agency works collaboratively across jurisdictions to carry out its functions in areas including policy development, compliance, research and evaluation.<sup>56</sup>

2.27 Chief Executive Officer, Ms Michelle Baxter, noted the continued reduction in the number of work-related fatalities and serious injury claims during the reporting period. A total of 188 worker fatalities were reported in 2014, representing a reduction of 39 per cent since a peak of 310 in 2007.<sup>57</sup>

2.28 In October 2014, Safe Work Australia piloted the Australian Strategy Virtual Seminar Series. The Virtual Seminar Series is a free online programme aimed at providing information and promoting discussion regarding key themes of the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022*.<sup>58</sup> The pilot program drew on the expertise of national and international industry leaders and academics and was shared through a variety of channels including live panel discussions, pre-recorded video presentations and infographics.<sup>59</sup>

2.29 In line with the agency's *Operational Plan 2014-15*, the evaluation of work health and safety laws continued to be a focus for Safe Work Australia throughout the reporting period. Safe Work Australia completed a number of studies regarding the effectiveness of the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws.<sup>60</sup> These studies encompassed interviews with Australian businesses of all sizes as well as a cost-benefit analysis of the effect of model WHS laws on workers, business and government.<sup>61</sup> Safe Work Australia also undertook work to examine the extent and appropriateness of any 'regulatory burden' that the model WHS laws place on Australian businesses. This work included a Health and Safety at Work Survey involving over 2300 business owners and operators across Australia.<sup>62</sup>

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55 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 14-15*, p. 8.

56 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 8.

57 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 10.

58 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 18.

59 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 21.

60 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 28.

61 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 28.

62 Safe Work Australia, *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 28.

2.30 The Committee thanks Safe Work Australia for a clear and concise annual report.

**Senator Bridget McKenzie**  
**Chair**

## Appendix 1

### Dates relating to the presentation of annual reports between 1 May to 31 October 2015

Reporting Body	Submitted to Minister	Received by Minister	Tabled in the Senate or presented out of sitting (*)	Tabled in the House of Representatives
<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING PORTFOLIO</b>				
Department of Education and Training	13/10/2015	13/10/2015	28/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies	02/10/2015	02/10/2015	30/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Australian Research Council	08/10/2015	08/10/2015	28/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Australian Skills Quality Authority	09/10/2015	12/10/2015	09/11/2015	22/10/2015
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	06/10/2015	07/10/2015	09/11/2015	21/10/2015
Australian National University	10/04/2015	09/06/2015	22/06/2015	22/06/2015
<b>EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIO</b>				
Department of Employment	30/09/2015	01/10/2015	09/11/2015	19/10/2015
Comcare and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission	09/10/2015	12/10/2015	29/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority	09/10/2015	12/10/2015	29/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Fair Work Commission	13/10/2015	13/10/2015	28/10/2015*	09/11/2015
Fair Work Ombudsman	30/09/2015	30/09/2015	09/11/2015	21/10/2015
Fair Work Building and Construction	24/09/2015	24/09/2015	09/11/2015	15/10/2015
Safe Work Australia	06/10/2015	06/10/2015	27/10/2015*	09/11/2015

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<b>Reporting Body</b>	<b>Submitted to Minister</b>	<b>Received by Minister</b>	<b>Tabled in the Senate or presented out of sitting (*)</b>	<b>Tabled in the House of Representatives</b>
Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal	30/09/2015	01/10/2015	09/11/2015	22/10/2015