

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0077\_14**

**Senator Xenophon provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Asbestos investigations**

1. How many cases is Comcare now investigating in relation to asbestos removal and dumping relation to NBN Co, Telstra and their contractors?
2. When did these investigations commence?
3. When are they expected to conclude?
4. What matters are considered during the investigations?
5. What are the possible outcomes for workers?

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response.*

1. *How many cases is Comcare now investigating in relation to asbestos removal and dumping relation to NBN Co, Telstra and their contractors?*

As at 30 June 2013, there were 38 matters relating to asbestos in telecommunication pits under review by Comcare.

As at 24 October 2013, Comcare had 3 open investigations relating to asbestos in telecommunication pits.

2. *When did these investigations commence?*

The matters under review were reported to Comcare between February and June 2013.

3. *When are they expected to conclude?*

Conclusion dates cannot be estimated as the duration of each review will depend on the individual circumstances of each matter.

4. *What matters are considered during the investigations?*

In reviewing each matter Comcare examines whether any organisation or individual has breached Commonwealth Work Health and Safety legislation or Codes of Practice relating to asbestos removal.

5. *What are the possible outcomes for workers?*

Where breaches of Commonwealth Work Health and Safety legislation are identified, a number of options may be considered including issuing notices, which require specified improvements, or prosecution.