

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

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

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0100_14

Senator Abetz asked on 3 June 2013, Hansard page 61

Question

Asbestos unsafe handling complaints in Tasmania

Senator ABETZ: Today's Australian newspaper has an article, 'Another asbestos threat exposed: seventh case of unsafe handling', and it relates to a Launceston situation. I was wondering whether you are able to give us any indication as to whether you are aware of that report? It is asserted that this lady, who is named and reported, did notify the federal safety regulator, Comcare, as well as Work Safe Tasmania. Are you aware of that situation? Mr O'Connor: Yes, all of the reports as they come in today through the media are being triage by our national assessment team, and we are making sure that we are verifying if they are new issues or incidences and despatching people to make sure that they are investigated or if they are simply further reports of issues already been investigated. Senator ABETZ: How many complaints have you received from Tasmania? Are you able to tell us that? Mr O'Connor: I would have to take the precise number on notice.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

From 1 January to 30 June 2013, there were 15 complaints made to Comcare about telecommunication pit-related issues in Tasmania.