

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0889_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Commissioned Reports

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency? 1. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level? 3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

Comcare has commissioned six reports since Budget Estimates in June 2014.

- A report was commissioned from consulting actuaries Taylor Fry, for Comcare, to provide advice on the value of an organisation's share of the premium scheme's outstanding claims liability and the unfunded liability as at 30 June 2014 for the purpose of determining potential terms for their exit from the scheme. The final cost of this report is yet to be determined. This contract required involvement from the following Comcare staff: one SES Band 1 to define the requirements of the contract, one Executive Level 1, one APS 6, and one APS5 to extract and verify (quality assurance process) the multiple datasets provided to Taylor Fry. It is unknown what specific resources were utilised by Taylor Fry to complete the commissioned report. This is for Comcare's internal purposes and is not intended for public release or provision to Government.
- The Comcare Claims and Liability Management operational benchmarking report was commissioned from the actuaries Finity Consulting. The report is expected to be provided to Comcare by 30 November 2014. The consultancy will cost approximately \$90,000 including GST. The contract involved one Executive Level 2 staff member from Comcare and four staff from Finity Consulting (one Project Manager, two project advisors/support, one senior staff member for peer review, with the potential for additional staff to be involved pending need). The report is being finalised and expected to be handed to Comcare by 30 November 2014. Currently this report is intended for internal use only.

- A report was commissioned from Ernst and Young to perform the review of the decision not to intervene in regards to a complaint to Comcare. The report was commissioned on 7 August 2014. The total cost for the report was \$14,668.01 (inclusive of GST). The review was conducted by three external staff from Ernst and Young (Director, Manager and Senior Consultant). This material relates to internal improvement programs within Comcare and is not intended for public release or provision of Government.
- A report was commissioned from Protiviti, Risk & Business Consulting – Internal Audit, to provide short term assistance in reviewing the financial management support arrangements for Seacare through investigating the answers to specific agreed questions. The report was commissioned on 21 June 2014 and provided on 1 October 2014. The report cost was \$24,249.00 (inclusive of GST). One SES Band 1 staff member from Comcare commissioned the report and the engagement team involved three external staff from Protiviti (two Lead Advisors and one Supporting Senior Consultant). This material relates to internal improvement programs within Comcare and is not intended for public release or provision to Government.
- A report was commissioned on 10 October 2014 from Deloitte to review the risk identification and assessment framework used by Comcare in its work, health and safety regulation role. The estimated value of the requirement over its entire duration is \$50,000.00 (excluding GST). It is estimated the report will be received in two to three months. This contract required involvement from the following Comcare staff: one SES Band 2, one SES Band 1 and one Executive Level 1. The review was conducted by five external personnel from Deloitte (one partner and four consultants). This material relates to internal improvement programs within Comcare and is not intended for public release or provision to Government.