

OPENING STATEMENT

*Safety & Compensation*

I am pleased to advise that since the last round of Senate Estimates, the Governor General has appointed Ms Jennifer Taylor as the new Chief Executive Officer of Comcare. Ms Taylor was Deputy Secretary, Employment in my Department and has been replaced by Mr Martin Hehir.

In addition, Mr Barry Sherriff has been appointed as Chairman of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and Ms Michelle Baxter is now the substantive Chief Executive Officer of ~~Comcare~~ *Safe Work Australia*.

While I am pleased to report that this portfolio responded to all portfolio questions on notice within the allotted timeframe, I would just note in passing that it makes it difficult for officials to turn around Questions on Notice in an expeditious manner when a number of Opposition Senators asked a large number of identical questions.