

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000288

Senator Cameron asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 94

Question

FWBC - Comcare premiums and claims

Senator CAMERON: Comcare premiums: I notice that your Comcare premiums have increased from 2010-11 from 1.2 per cent to currently 2.52 per cent. How many Comcare claims have been made in respect of the fair work building commission employees in each of the last five years?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Why are we spending all this money bringing all these officers to estimates if they cannot answer a question on a specific issue? This is a waste of public money if you simply take every question on notice. I will tell you, it is not an appropriate to deal with the Senate.

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take it on notice. We were not anticipating a question of this nature, it is fair to say, on Comcare premiums—

Senator CAMERON: You have got your chief financial officer here and you cannot answer a question in relation to Comcare claims?

Mr Hadgkiss: To go to records over five years is going to take some degree of work on our part, but we will endeavour to get that to you, Senator.

Senator CAMERON: You are certainly not the biggest agency, and this would be an easy fix for many agencies. How many Fair Work Building and Construction employees have made multiple Comcare claims over the last five financial years?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice. Certainly, to my knowledge, I am not aware of any making multiple claims.

Senator CAMERON: How many Comcare claims in each of the last five financial years have been in relation to psychological or emotional injuries?

Mr Hadgkiss: Again, I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Does anyone know?

Mr Hadgkiss: We do not keep records of this nature. We will endeavour to search our indices to come up with something.

Senator CAMERON: So you do not keep records of whether there have been compensation claims for psychological or emotional injuries? Surely you would have an obligation to do that.

Mr Hadgkiss: I am sure we have that, and I will take it on notice.

Ms Parker: Senator, most agencies' premiums have gone up. We were just commenting that the department would not have the figures for the last five years with us either.

Senator CAMERON: How many Comcare claims in the last five years have been made in relation to physical injuries?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: What actual Comcare premiums have been paid by Fair Work Building and Construction for each of the past five financial years?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: How many Comcare claims in the last year have been made in relation to physical injuries?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take it on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Can you tell me how many Comcare claims in the last year have been made in relation to psychological and emotional injuries?

Mr Hadgkiss: Again, I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: I do not want to make it too complicated—the last year would do. And you can take it on notice for the five years.

Answer

The table below outlines the number of Comcare claims made in respect to FWBC in the last five years:

Year	Number of claims
2011	1
2012	2
2013	1
2014	1
2015	3*

*figure includes one claim that has been declined and one claim that is yet to be determined.

No FWBC employees have made multiple Comcare claims over the last five financial years.

In the last five financial years, four Comcare claims have been in relation to psychological or emotional injuries.

In the last five years four Comcare claims have been made in relation to physical injuries.