

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000314

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 49

Question

The Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (improving the Comcare Scheme) Bill 2015 - submissions received

Senator O'NEILL: You have given me the process in general—thank you very much for that. How many submissions did you receive?

Ms Parker: We have previously covered this off in estimates and in the inquiry, but I can get it. We have answered these in the past, so we did not bring them this time. We can take them on notice or get that for you.

CHAIR: Maybe just a Hansard reference.

Ms Parker: Yes. We certainly have covered it in quite some detail, including in our submission to the Senate inquiry. Apologies, I did not bring it with me; I did not think we would be going over it again.

Answer

Summary

Eighty-five written submissions were received as part of the extensive consultation process undertaken to inform the development of the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (improving the Comcare Scheme) Bill 2015 (the Bill).

Details

A five-stage consultation process was undertaken to inform the development of the Bill.

Consultation Stage 1

On 30 March 2013 and 1 May 2013, the two reports on the *Review into the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act Review) by Mr Peter Hanks QC and Dr Allan Hawke AC respectively, were publicly released.

As part of the SRC Act Review, approximately 44 workshops, meetings and other consultations were held between July and November 2012. Forty-five written submissions (listed below) were received in October 2012 in response to an issues paper.

No	Organisation/Individual
1.	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
2.	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
3.	ACT Government
4.	ACTU

No	Organisation/Individual
5.	Ai Group
6.	Alan Emerson
7.	AMWU
8.	ANU
9.	Australian Human Rights Commission
10.	Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veteran's Association
11.	Australian Psychological Society
12.	Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd
13.	Beasley Legal
14.	CEPU - Communications Division
15.	CEPU - Postal and Telecommunications Branch
16.	Colin Dunstan
17.	Comcare
18.	Community and Public Sector Union
19.	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
20.	Department of Defence
21.	DLA Piper
22.	Dr Peter Harcourt & Julie Harrick
23.	Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
24.	Ms Genevieve Grant
25.	George Williams
26.	John Holland Group
27.	John Ross
28.	John Vogt
29.	KPMG
30.	Law Council of Australia
31.	Leo Gray
32.	Lisa Blanch
33.	Maurice Blackburn
34.	Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission
35.	Lyndell Painter
36.	Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
37.	RSI and Overuse Association
38.	Royal Australasian College of Physicians
39.	Ryan Carlisle Thomas
40.	Safe Work Australia

No	Organisation/Individual
41.	Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association
42.	Slater and Gordon Lawyers
43.	Suncorp
44.	Telstra Corporation Ltd
45.	Turner Freeman Lawyers

Consultation Stage 2

On publication of the SRC Act Review report in March 2013, a series of targeted public consultations was conducted in April 2013 with key stakeholder groups in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

The consultations included feedback sessions held by then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and written submissions regarding the recommendations in the SRC Act Review. Forty written submissions (listed below) were received by the then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations during April and May 2013.

No	Organisation/Individual
1.	Mr Dave Curran
2.	Anonymous
3.	Exercise & Sports Science Australia
4.	Department of Finance & Deregulation
5.	John Holland Group
6.	Mr Craig Shorthouse
7.	Telstra Corporation Ltd
8.	Attorney General's Department
9.	Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
10.	Australian Industry Group
11.	Southside Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre
12.	Returned and Services League
13.	Plumbing, Trades, Electrical Union
14.	Suncorp
15.	Assessments Australia
16.	Advanced Personnel Management
17.	CSL
18.	Department of Defence
19.	Slater and Gordon Lawyers
20.	Aon Hewitt
21.	Australia Post
22.	Queensland Nurses Union of Employees

No	Organisation/Individual
23.	Australian Council of Trade Unions
24.	Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
25.	National Australia Bank
26.	K & S Freighters
27.	Australian Manufacturing Workers' Unions
28.	Lawyers Alliance
29.	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
30.	Mr Peter Marsden
31.	Linfox
32.	Department of Human Services
33.	Trade Workers' Union
34.	Australian Mines & Metal Association
35.	Chubb
36.	Department of Veterans' Affairs
37.	Law Council of Australia
38.	Law Society of NSW
39.	Australian Taxation Office
40.	Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Licensees Association

Consultation Stage 3

A series of consultations was conducted by the Department of Employment with key stakeholder groups in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne during May to June 2014. The key stakeholders included unions, Australian Public Service employers, the ACT Government, employers who self-insure under the Comcare scheme, health practitioners and legal practitioners.

No written submissions were requested, or received, during this period.

Consultation Stage 4

This was the final stage of consultations conducted by the Department of Employment before the introduction of the Bill into Parliament.

A series of consultation sessions was conducted by the Department of Employment with key stakeholder groups in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney during January and February 2015. The key stakeholders included unions, Australian Public Service employers, employers who self-insure under the Comcare scheme, health practitioners and legal practitioners.

No written submissions were requested, or received, during this period.

Consultation State 5

The Committee on Industrial Legislation (CoIL) is a subcommittee of the National Workplace Relations Consultative Council and meets when required to provide technical input on draft workplace relations legislation.

A CoIL-like meeting was held on 19 February 2015 to discuss the draft Bill. Attendees included representatives from unions and employers.