

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000324

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 51

Question

COMCARE - Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Improving the Comcare Scheme) Bill 2015 - Consultation with labour law firms or unions

Senator O'NEILL: Has Comcare engaged with any labour law firms or unions?

Ms Taylor: We go in through the ACTU to find the appropriate unions who want to be consulted in this process. I think Mr Hughes said—

Mr Hughes: The Law Council.

Ms Taylor: the Law Council.

Senator O'NEILL: Any other labour law firms?

Ms Taylor: I am not sure of the—

Senator Cash: What is your definition of a local law firm?

Senator O'NEILL: How about we clarify it and give you that on notice to make sure we are on the same page there. A range of people and bodies made submissions to the Senate committee.

Answer

Comcare engaged with the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and the Law Council of Australia via written letter and email on 10 September 2015. Comcare also convened a meeting with the Australian Law Council on 20 October 2015 to discuss Comcare's role and responsibilities in the SRC Act changes process and established stronger communication protocols between Comcare and the Law Council of Australia.

A teleconference with the ACTU occurred on 6 November 2015 to discuss how best to engage with the Union regarding the proposed SRC Act changes. The consultation is ongoing.

Comcare engaged with the ACTU and the Law Council of Australia as they represent the key industry groups for consultation. Comcare relies on these peak bodies to further disseminate consultation information to their members.