

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Agency - Comcare**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000475**

**Senator Leyonhjelm asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 37**

#### **Question**

#### **COMCARE - Funding for compliance and enforcement activities in relation to the GHS**

Senator LEYONHJELM: I understand that, but as of 1 January 2017 it would seem that an agvet chemical company could have their label legally approved by the APVMA under the agvet code yet still be liable for prosecution for failing to comply with the additional GHS labelling requirements. Is that correct?

Ms Collins: That could be the case, yes.

Ms Baxter: May I just clarify. Safe Work Australia is not a regulator in this space; we are a policy development body. Those decisions as to whether or not to prosecute would be up to the individual state and territory regulators.

Senator LEYONHJELM: So, the states are responsible for compliance and enforcement?

Ms Baxter: That is correct, yes.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Has additional funding been provided for compliance and enforcement activities by the states?

Ms Collins: I would not know the answer to that question.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Can you find it if you take it on notice or it is not in your bailiwick?

Ms Baxter: Comcare is the Commonwealth regulator. Perhaps when they come on later they could be asked.

Senator Cash: We can put it on notice to Comcare for you.

#### **Answer**

Comcare has not been provided any additional funding for compliance and enforcement activities to support implementation of the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Hazardous Chemicals. Comcare operates on a cost recovery basis.

Comcare is unable to comment on funding provided to state and territory regulators.