

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Agency - Comcare**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000817**

**Senator Marshall asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 83**

#### **Question**

##### **Comcare - Comparison of Workers Compensation Legislation**

Senator MARSHALL: ... Comcare has one of the highest, if not the highest, claim rejection rate of any workers compensation scheme in Australia. Given that Queensland's workers compensation claims are rejected at a rate of seven per cent per annum, why does Comcare have a rejection rate of 23 per cent, and what is Comcare doing to reduce this figure?

Ms Taylor: I am not sure where those figures about Queensland come from. I will just preface my answer with the fact that workers compensation legislation is not standard across Australia. If you are comparing the operations of different states, we are not operating under the same legislation, so I do not think you can make an apples with apples comparison.

There is Comcare and its operations as the determining authority for premium paying agencies, if you are talking about that, or there is Comcare the scheme, which includes not only the premium paying agencies and Comcare as the determining authority but all of the determining authorities, who are self-insured licensees who operate in our scheme. They make their own determinations about their workers compensation schemes. I do not have a comparison across Australia but am happy to take that on notice.

Senator MARSHALL: You do a comparison against both of your internal structures to each other.

Ms Taylor: Yes.

Senator MARSHALL: And then you could do a comparison on both of those against the state regulatory schemes?

Ms Taylor: Yes, we could. I am happy to undertake that.

Senator MARSHALL: If you could take that on notice, that would be good. Thank you.

Ms Taylor: In terms of the accepted claims, there are various rates that are used. As I said, I am happy to take that on notice and get that for you.

#### **Answer**

Data on initial rejection rates across different jurisdictions is not available, and Comcare has been unable to undertake a comparison.