

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 2 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000822

Senator Marshall asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 84

Question

Enquiries about the Comcare Scheme

Ms Parker: There was legislation under the previous term. They can already apply to join the Comcare scheme. The legislation under the previous term was about coverage for work health and safety. The department at the moment is talking to the minister about what the government wants to do in regard to this term and the legislation that was in the parliament previously. It is a work in progress.

Senator MARSHALL: So no decision has been made yet, Minister?

Senator Cash: Not yet, no.

Senator MARSHALL: How many additional companies have approached Comcare with an interest in applying for a licence?

Ms Taylor: I can get that figure for you.

Senator MARSHALL: Are you able to provide me with a list? They must go through a formal process—it is not a secret application. They are applying in a formal sense.

Ms Taylor: I can tell you those that have been declared by the minister as eligible and applied, but I cannot give you a list of those that have made inquiries. The reason for that is that a number of these companies are publicly listed companies. That sort of information could perhaps influence their commercial confidentiality.

Senator MARSHALL: That claim is a little ambitious.

Ms Taylor: I do not think so. They are making these decisions to join or not—

Senator MARSHALL: Sure.

Ms Taylor: But I can tell you the numbers.

Senator Cash: Would you like the list of—

Senator MARSHALL: I would like a list. Someone ringing up and asking what is involved in applying for a licence is not really what I am after. If that is what the enquiry is—I am not after those enquiries. But if people have taken the next step, know what is involved and have said, 'We are now interested in working with you to see if we're eligible, whether we can or whether we can't'—that is what I would like to know. Could you break out that much?

Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice. I can say that since December 2013 there have been 55 enquiries regarding entry into the scheme. Seven entities have been declared eligible by the minister, seven applications for licence to self-insure have been received, and seven licences have been granted by the commission. But I can certainly get you the list. I will take that on notice.

Answer

Since December 2013, nine corporations have enquired and submitted a request to the Department of Employment for obtaining a self-insurance licence under the Comcare scheme.

Seven of these companies have been declared eligible by the Minister to be granted a self-insurance licence and licenses have been granted to these seven companies by the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission. The seven corporations are: BWA Group Services Pty Limited (Bankwest); DHL Supply Chain (Australia) Pty Ltd; Medibank Health Solutions Pty Ltd; Medibank Private Limited; Star Track Express Pty Ltd; Virgin Australia Airlines Pty Ltd; and Wilson Security Pty Ltd.

A further two corporations have lodged an application requesting eligibility to apply for a self-insurance licence. These are: Ron Finemore Transport Services Pty Ltd and Geo Group Australia Pty Ltd.