

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000828

Senator Paterson asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 87

Question

Comcare - Defence Expenses

Senator PATERSON: Again, this one is from The Canberra Times. They take great interest in these matters, for obvious reasons. Phillip Thomson is the journalist on this occasion. He writes about a public servant who sought to have taxpayers pay for his lawn to be mowed, because he was not able to mow it because of an injury he sustained. I believe that Comcare rejected his application because they observed that he had family members who could possibly undertake the lawnmowing duties. But this was appealed by him to the AAT, and I believe Comcare was successful in defending the decision of the AAT. Again, perhaps you could provide the costs, on notice, that Comcare incurred in that case.

Ms Taylor: Certainly.

Answer

Comcare's legal costs of running that matter through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal were \$22,935.06.