

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0717\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 8.**

**Question**

**POLICY GUIDANCE**

Senator ABETZ—On 23 November 2010 we were still being told, ‘There is no policy guidance on the method of training as yet.’ That was the situation as at 23 November 2010, is that right? Mr Kibble—I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response*

This advice was in response to whether Safe Work Australia provided policy guidance on the method of training for HSRs under the National Model OHS legislation. The Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission’s policy advice on the requirements for HSR training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction is contained in its *Guidelines for Health and Safety Representative Training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction* and was released April 2010.

The Model Work Health and Safety Regulations are currently out for consultation. Under the draft regulations there is a requirement for HSR training to consist of five days training. The delivery mechanism for this training requirement is not prescribed by the draft regulations but is being left to state and territory work health and safety regulators to develop under the Safe Work Australia Strategic Issues Group (SIG) framework.

The SIG met on 25 August 2010 and agreed that HSR training should consist of five days face-to face training and be non-competency based. A HWSA working group is also looking at the content requirements of training courses and is due to report to the next HWSA meeting on 24 March 2011. Current indications are that the working group will recommend that the course curriculum be developed by regulators to be delivered by providers.