

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome/Agency**      **Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No.**   **EW0239\_10**

Senator Humphries asked on Tuesday 2 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 9.

**Question**

*Comcare claims relating to asbestos and other toxic dust*

Senator HUMPHRIES—Could I have a breakdown on the types of claims that you are currently handling—as in claims relating to asbestos and other sorts of toxic dust.

**Answer**

Comcare has provided the following response:

Comcare is responsible for managing dust disease claims in two scenarios.

Comcare administers the *Asbestos-related Claims (Management of Commonwealth Liabilities) Act 2005* (ARC Act). Under the ARC Act, Comcare is responsible for managing the Commonwealth's liabilities for asbestos-related common law claims. As at 25 June 2009, Comcare has 193 such claims on hand. These claims relate only to asbestos, and not other common law dust disease claims against the Commonwealth, as the ARC Act only transfers a previous Commonwealth liability for asbestos-related disease claims to Comcare.

Comcare separately manages workers' compensation claims under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* for respiratory diseases reported to be the result of exposure to fine particles or dust. As at 31 May 2009, Comcare had accepted 11 such claims in 2008-09.