

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

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

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0243\_11**

**Senator Cormann asked on 1/06/2010, Hansard page 28.**

**Question**

**RETURNING TO WORK AFTER ASSESMENTS**

CHAIR—Do we know if any of the 391 have returned to work? Mr Kibble—I would have to take that on notice, Senator.

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response*

Of the 391 invalidity retirees in receipt<sup>1</sup> of weekly compensation payments under sections 20, 21 or 21A of the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (the Act) there are nine who have a recorded ability to earn (AE).

AE is defined in subsection 19(2) of the Act and means:

*'the greater of the following amounts:*

- (a) the amount per week (if any) that the employee is able to earn in suitable employment;*
- (b) the amount per week (if any) that the employee earns from suitable employment (including self-employment) that is undertaken by the employee during that week.'*

Of the nine invalidity retirees with a recorded AE figure two are currently totally incapacitated for work because of a worsening of symptoms as a result of volunteer and part time work.

Of the seven workers with a current ability to earn:

- One worker is employed eight hours a week;
- One worker is employed between 9-17 hours a week depending on job requirements;
- Two workers are currently self employed and working up to 19 hours a week;
- One worker is employed 20 hours a week;
- One worker is employed between 28-38 hours a week; and
- One works intermittently in a casual part time job.

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<sup>1</sup> Workers who were in receipt of weekly incapacity compensation at 28 February 2010 with reason for exit reported as 'invalidity retirement'. That is the same group of workers referred to in previous DEEWR response SQ10-000518.

All nine workers continue to receive weekly incapacity payments under the Act as their ability to earn is less than their normal pre-injury weekly earnings.