

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

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

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0252_11

Senator Abetz asked on 1/06/2010, Hansard page 37.

Question

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND CLASSROOM TRAINING

Senator ABETZ—Are we going to get the emphasis on all of these practical activities within the four walls of the classroom? Can I say there was another training scheme that sought to do this that the minister might have some recollection of. It led to most unfortunate results, but we will not go there. It just seems to me that classroom training without practical activities and training will be a severely limited training scheme. Mr Kibble—If I could just clarify my answer—and we have canvassed some of these issues already—the guidelines require: Full courses should comprise a minimum of 35 hours face to face training over a minimum of five days, with some flexible options available to accommodate the needs of the HSR. Providing that flexible arrangements offer the minimum of 35 hours of face to face training and include the mandatory practical skills development activities. So there is a minimum there, but the training courses can go beyond that in a range of ways to ensure that the training is of the highest quality. But I will come back to you on that.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response

The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission has determined in its current Guidelines that all courses should contain a number of practical skills development activities to reinforce how the learning can be applied. For example, the three hour mandatory workplace inspection activity, whilst conducted outside the class room environment, is part of the 35 hours face to face training requirement.

An expected outcome of the current Guidelines is that health and safety representatives experience a learner centred environment that is focussed on developing their knowledge skills and competence to exercise their statutory powers effectively and responsibly.