

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0084_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

The Introduction Of The Flexible Guidelines

Documents to be tabled: SRCC Minutes (doc 1-17) and HSR Course Accreditation Guidelines 2007 (doc 501) Please refer to section 2.2 of the SRCC minutes of Meeting 81 on 14 December 2005 (Doc 1-17). Please refer to section 3.2 of the 2007 course accreditation guidelines (doc 501). An extract is below. 1. Did the SRCC in December 2005 specifically introduce flexible delivery into the training guidelines? 2. Did the SRCC agree to modify section 3.2 of the guidelines to "emphasise flexibility in format and mode of delivery"? 3. Was one of the SRCC's stated purposes to encourage providers to put forward training options in a wide range of programs and modes including distance learning? 4. Does section 3.2 of the 2007 guidelines say that "There are no set requirements for course length, the format of courses or how the course is delivered"? 5. Is section 3.2 of the 2007 guidelines (extract below) the expression of the SRCC's resolution at 2.2 of the December 2005 minutes? 6. Did Comcare give regard to the SRCC's express opinion on flexible delivery when designing the draft guidelines in 2009 that were put to the March 2010 meeting for approval? 7. Did Comcare specifically point out to the SRCC and make it unmistakable that part of the draft guidelines put to the March meeting were overturning the 2005 decision of the SRCC?

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Commissioner Merryfull made that statement during the meeting on 14 December 2005.
4. Yes, provided that the course can show that there is sufficient time to cover the required content and that the chosen format and mode of delivery ensures that practical elements are adequately covered.
5. The wording of section 3.2 of the 2007 guidelines was amended to reflect the outcome of the Commission's decision of 14 December 2005.
6. Yes. The purpose of the 2009 review was to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2007 Guidelines, particularly as courses had begun to vary widely in format and quality.
7. No. It was clear that any new guidelines would replace the existing guidelines.