

## S.enate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

#### Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0087\_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

#### Question

#### Comments From Large Government Agencies Australia Post And ASC

Documents to be tabled: Email from Australia Post to Comcare 29 January 2010 (doc 268) Email from Australian Submarine Corporation 27 January 2010 (doc 204) Questions: 1.Were the emails from Australia Post and Australian Submarine Corporation received as a result of a request by Comcare for feedback on the review by Stoker and Wright (2009)? 2.Please look at the email from Australia Post to Comcare on 29 January 2010 (Doc 268) and look at their comments about recommendation 10. Do Australia Post support flexibility in delivery methods suggesting that there should be a variety of forms of accredited training courses to accommodate business operations and the employers training approach as well as regional needs? 3.Did Australia Post reject the idea that training should be “predominantly” face to face? 4.Did Australia Post point out to the problem in the survey design when they wrote that the fact that 60% of survey respondents preferred face to face training is “... not surprising given that, it seems, the majority of the survey respondents may have only ever experienced a five day block course”? 5.Did Australia Post submit that they do not consider that the outcome of the survey should support a recommendation that HSR course should be predominantly face-to-face; five days in length? 6.Please look at the email from ASC to Comcare (Doc 204). Do the reject the suggestion of doing away with the flexible delivery model? 7.Did the ASC say that “locking in a 5 day face to face does not fit at all”? 8.Did the ASC say that locking in a system to 5 day face to face will be “counter to the long term objective of more high quality SHR’s in Australian workplaces”? 9.Did the ASC say that “Flexible learning from Accredited Providers should not be barred or unnecessarily curtailed simply because it does not fit a traditional mould”? 10.How many employers in the Commonwealth jurisdiction provided comments on the review and its recommendations? Which employers responded and what did they say? 11.Does Comcare know of any employers that think flexible options are a bad idea?

#### Answer

*Comcare has provided the following responses.*

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes, although it was more concerned with the five day length.
4. No. Australia Post does not comment on the design of the survey. It said it was not surprised with the results.
5. Yes.

SQ11-000913

6. The Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC) preferred a variety of delivery methods.

7. Yes.

8. Yes.

9. Yes.

10. Two. Australia Post and the Australian Submarine Corporation. Their comments are contained in the attachments to this Question on Notice.

11. There were no other responses from employers on the report. However, on p18 of the report, the reviewers state 'Online training was not favoured by HSRs, training providers, employers or employee advocates.'