

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0094\_12**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Failing To Follow Recommendations That Were Accepted**

Document to be tabled: Comcare's response to review (doc 251) Final Report by Stoker and Wright 2009 (doc 500) 1.Did Stoker and Wright (2009) recommend that training be "predominantly" face to face and five days duration? 2.How many providers were accredited at the time of the report in September 2009? 3.How many of those providers provided a face to face, five day course? 4.What proportion of the providers provided a face to face, five day course? 5.Based on this figure, would you describe HSR training as being "predominantly" five days and face to face? 6.DidComcare support recommendation 10 of the Stoker and Wright Review? 7.Why did Comcare therefore recommend to the SRCC that HSR training be exclusively face to face and five days duration? 8.DidComcare advise the SRCC specifically that the Review did not recommend that training be exclusively face to face and five days duration?

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response.*

1. Yes.
2. According to the 2009 Annual Report of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC), as at 30 June 2009 there were 15 accredited providers of HSR training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction.
3. Twelve.
4. 80 per cent.
5. No. The question misrepresents the issue. The proportion of providers who were already meeting those requirements is not relevant; it is whether the course itself meets the requirements.
6. Yes.
7. Comcare considered the recommendations of the review and developments towards harmonization, where it was likely that a 5-day course would be mandated. Comcare also considered the findings that online training was not favoured. Further, Comcare considered the learning outcomes and the hands-on skill development needed for HSR training. It should be noted that the workplace inspection exercise, when supervised by the trainer, is considered to be 'face-to-face' training for the purpose of the guidelines. Flexibility exists to enable the course to be delivered in shorter blocks. The Guidelines also allow for special

circumstances to be considered, where a course is inconsistent with the SRCC desire that the duration of courses be consistent and standardised.

8. No, however the report and a summary of the recommendations were tabled at the SRCC meeting of 18 December 2009.