

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0097_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

The Commissioner Representing Safework Australia Was Misled By His Department In The Briefing Regarding The Approval Of New Guidelines

Document tabled on 30 May Briefing for Safework Australia CEO for SRCC meeting March 2010 (doc 506) Questions: 1.Please look at the briefing Safe Work Australia provided Commissioner Hoy for the meeting that approved the new restrictive guidelines (doc 506, extract below). Does the briefing advise that the proposed guidelines do not impose any new requirements on the providers of HSR training or for existing courses? 2.Given the new guidelines did away with specific course delivery features introduced by the SRCC in 2005, was this a misleading brief? 3.Given the change to the guidelines completely removed the New Workplace Learning course, was this brief misleading? 4.Would this brief had been correct: "The guidelines will undo a specific feature introduced by the SRCC at the December 2005 meeting which aimed to encourage a variety of course delivery and more options. This was reflected in the current provision that allows flexible design as long as the learning objectives are met. While most courses remain in the traditional mould, some courses have emerged and are providing an alternative valued by participants, the government sector and industry. The proposal will shut those courses down." 5.If the brief was misleading as to the change to the requirements and effect on providers and on courses that were already accredited, how can the decision of the SRCC be valid.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

Comcare did not prepare the brief for the Commissioner representing Safe Work Australia. It was prepared by Safe Work Australia. Comcare therefore is unable to comment on its content.