

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0284_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 86.

Question

Details of DEEWRs Submission to Comcare

Senator ABETZ: I would not mind revisiting because certain information has now come available courtesy of freedom of information, which sheds a bit of light on things. I understand that the DEEWR submission to Comcare strongly supported keeping and expanding the flexible delivery options. Could you confirm that for us? Mr Kibble: I will have to take that on notice in terms of the detail of DEEWR's submission to that inquiry.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

Comcare has taken this question to refer to the survey response submitted by Commissioner Michelle Baxter, the Commonwealth representative on the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission from Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations, dated 16 June 2009.

The response at question 1.5 states that (a) 'The variety in delivery mechanisms significantly improves access to training and outcomes for employees and employers' and (b) 'The Department notes that this section (1.5) does not mention distance learning or e-learning mechanisms. This could be a valuable mechanism for overcoming problems and gaps in the provision of training outside NSW, ACT and VIC.'

It should be noted that Commissioner Baxter was present at the Commission meeting of 23 March 2010 where the draft revised guidelines were discussed and included in the out-of-sessions meeting on 8 April 2010 where they were endorsed.