

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0303_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 105.

Question

Health and Safety Representatives (HSR) training guidelines

Senator ABETZ: Right. Did that advice, briefing, paper, notes—however we may describe it—indicate that there would be no effect on existing training providers if the SRCC adopted the change to HSR training, being exclusively five days face-to-face? Mr Hoy: Senator, I cannot recall any such briefing on that matter. Senator ABETZ: Can you please take it on notice? Mr Hoy: Yes, I can. Senator ABETZ: And the term 'briefing' we accept has a wide definition. It is not a formal briefing face to face or a formal briefing note. They might have been supportive comments attached to an agenda. Some information has now been released on FOI on this, so the term 'briefing' may be used in a loose manner by me. But if you could take that on notice. Mr Hoy: Yes, I will. Senator ABETZ: I would be much obliged. Thank you, very much.

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:

On 5 March 2010, Comcare provided an agenda paper on Health and Safety Representatives Training for the March 2010 SRCC meeting. In that paper, Comcare advised that 'the revised guidelines do not impose any new requirements on the providers of HSR accredited training or for training courses accredited by the Commission, but rather clarify the expected learning outcomes of the existing four training objectives.'

On 23 March 2010, Mr Hoy was provided with an internal Safe Work Australia briefing paper on the Comcare agenda paper. This was the document tabled by Senator Abetz during Budget Estimates on 30 May 2011.