

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
6 NOVEMBER 2003**

COMCARE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question Number: W177-04

Question:

Senator Carr asked in *writing*:

Have you determined which staff were potentially exposed to the asbestos and if so how many exposure notices have been issued?

Answer:

This is a matter for the NGA, as part of its duty of care under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) (National Standards) Regulations 1994, Part 6 Hazardous Substances*. Specifically, *regulation 6.17A, Exposure to scheduled carcinogenic substances* requires an employer if it reasonably suspects that an employee has been accidentally exposed to a scheduled carcinogenic substance, to as soon as practicable, notify the employee of that exposure. Comcare is aware that the NGA has notified those employees potentially exposed to asbestos and offered them health checks performed by a medical practitioner. The current investigation will consider actions taken by the NGA under the Regulations.