

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

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

**COMCARE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Question Number: W179-04**

**Question:**

Senator Carr asked in *writing*:

Why did Comcare decide to establish a steering committee to oversee the implementation of the Wray inquiry recommendations after the NGA failed to comply with recommendations of earlier Comcare investigations?

**Answer:**

Mr Wray was directed to conduct an investigation part of which was to determine whether or not the NGA had implemented/addressed the recommendations of two previous investigations. Mr Wray concluded, amongst other things, that the NGA had taken reasonably practical steps to comply with the majority of recommendations made in the previous investigations. A copy of the direction for this investigation is attached.

The Steering Committee was established because of some concerns expressed by former employees of the NGA that the NGA would not act appropriately to address any recommendations flowing from the Wray investigation. As a result, Comcare suggested to the NGA that a steering committee consisting of Comcare's CEO, the Director of NGA and a senior representative from the CPSU be established to oversee the implementation of recommendations to allay these fears/concerns. The Director of the NGA supported this approach and the committee has now met three times on 20 August 2003, 18 September 2003 and 31 October 2003 and will continue to meet monthly. The CPSU was initially the only union represented on the Committee. The Committee has now extended an offer to other NGA unions to participate.

In any other investigation, Comcare relies on the employer to act to address the investigator's recommendations and may then revisit the employer (on an ad hoc basis) to ensure action has been taken. The NGA has developed a plan addressing each of the outstanding recommendations including timeframes for the implementation of each individual action. The minutes of the committee meetings are posted on the NGA intranet.