

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Spill-Over Hearing March 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 281

The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Page 31, 24/03/2017

Topic: WIA deed of arrangement – Reporting requirements

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Can you also tell me about the deed of arrangement that you have with the Wireless Institute of Australia for amateur radio accreditation. When was it commenced and for what purposes?

Mr Bean: Once again, I do not have all of the details of that with me. I can provide these details on notice or I can ask Mr Tanner to give a short summary.

Senator URQUHART: If there is someone here, that would be great.

Mr Tanner: There are certain types of radio communications licence that come with training requirements. You mentioned the Australian Maritime College. That is a training provider that addresses the qualifications required by certain types of licence user—for example, in the maritime sector. The same is the case in the amateur licensing sphere. There are certain requirements or qualifications that users of amateur licences need to hold. The ACMA has a delegation to the Wireless Institute of Australia in connection with the examination and accreditation of amateur users.

Senator URQUHART: Does the deed of arrangement set out governance and reporting standards or requirements for the WIA to meet?

Mr Tanner: Yes, it does.

Senator URQUHART: What are they required to report to the ACMA under that deed?

Mr Tanner: There are a number of requirements, but I am afraid I would have to provide them on notice. I do not have a brief handy on that.

Senator URQUHART: Do you have any idea?

Mr Tanner: I would have to take it on notice.

Answer:

There is a deed of agreement between the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in relation to Amateur Certificates of Proficiency (certificates) and associated administrative services. The deed commenced on 28 January 2009.

The deed contains reporting requirements concerning:

- information on WIA's performance against service levels
- the number of applications made for certificates, assessments conducted, and certificates issued
- information about complaints made to the WIA, including allegations of illegality or serious impropriety in WIA's delivery of statutory functions or administrative services
- the results of random audits of assessors
- the provision of financial information including audited financial reports.