

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0201_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Reviews

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including: a. the date they were ordered b. the date they commenced c. the minister responsible d. the department responsible e. the nature of the review f. their terms of reference g. the scope of the review h. Whom is conducting the review i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review j. the expected report date k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

2. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review? a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details. f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them g. If yes, for each, who selected them h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them, 1. If yes, please detail what involvement it was 2. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list 3. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur 4. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department 5. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews are on-going? a. Please list them. b. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews? 4. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them. 5. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them. 6. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided. 7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? 8. What reviews are planned? a. When will each planned review be commenced? b. When will each of these reviews be concluded? c. When will government respond to each review? d. Will the government release each review? 1. If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer

Since Additional Estimates in February 2014 Comcare has initiated one review.

Investigation Process External Review

1. Since *Additional Estimates in February, 2014*, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including: a. the date they were ordered b. the date they commenced c. the minister responsible d. the department responsible e. the nature of the review f. their terms of reference g. the scope of the review h. Whom is conducting the review i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review j. the expected report date k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

1a. Ordered 11 April 2014.

1b. Commenced 12 April 2014.

1c. Not applicable, commissioned by Comcare.

1d. Comcare.

1e. Investigation Process Review.

1f. Stage One

Review the conduct of the Investigation against Comcare's published regulatory policy and processes and Comcare's internal regulatory policy and procedures:

- Review the time taken, number and qualifications of the personnel involved, cost and quality of the Investigation
- Review the complaints received from the employer agency under investigation (including consultation with the agency involved)
- Hold discussion with, and seek input from, senior management of Comcare and the investigators involved in relation to the investigation.

Based on the findings of stage one, Comcare will determine the appropriateness of commencing a second stage which involves the broader review of Comcare's regulatory operations, specifically Comcare would require EY to:

- Review the Comcare regulatory framework and operations, and benchmark against relevant Australian Government standards
- Review Comcare's regulatory decision making processes, including its Enforcement Committee, and the understanding across the regulatory human resources on shared responsibility and collaboration
- Identify any improvements Comcare could make to its regulatory operations framework and approach including the culture of regulatory work, and make appropriate recommendations.

1g. Review the conduct of an investigation in an overseas location and subject to the outcome of that review, undertake a broader assessment of Comcare's regulatory operations, with regard to Australian Government Investigation Standards, Comcare's regulatory policy, process and procedures, applicable Commonwealth legislations and leading practice.

1h. Ernst & Young.

1i. Not applicable.

1j. 30 July 2014.

1k. \$88,601 GST inclusive.

1l. No.

2. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review? a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details. f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them g. If yes, for each, who selected them h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them, 1. If yes, please detail what involvement it was 2. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list 3. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur 4. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department 5. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

2a. Ernst & Young.

2b. www.ey.com/AU/en/About-us/Our-global-approach/Our-leaders/Oceania-leadership-team

2c. Cost listed at 1k. Phase 1 (41,236 GST inc) and Phase 2 (47,365 GST inc) reports.

2d. Contracted to conduct the review.

2e. No.

2f. None.

2g. Deputy CEO.

2h. No.

3. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews are on-going? a. Please list them. b. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

3a EY Investigation Process External Review.

3b. \$41,236.

4. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.

No.

5. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.

Nil.

6. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.

Nil.

7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Not applicable.

8. What reviews are planned? a. When will each planned review be commenced? b. When will each of these reviews be concluded? c. When will government respond to each review? d. Will the government release each review? 1. If so, when? If not, why not?

Nil.