

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0840_15

Senator McKenzie asked on 2 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 85

Question

Comcare - Claims for psychological injuries

Senator McKENZIE: You said earlier that there was an increase over time whilst the amount of people remains relatively static over time. There is a difference in the proportion of types of claim in terms of psychological versus physical injury. How many of the roughly 12,000 are psychological claims? Mr Watson: I cannot give you the total for all the open claims, but I mentioned that about 3,200 new claims each year are accepted. Of them, approximately 15 per cent would be for a primary psychological injury. That figure varies from year to year. But, on average, in recent years it has been about 15 per cent. Senator McKENZIE: Could you take on notice, then, to do a similar calculation with the 12,000? Mr Watson: Yes.

Answer

Table 1 below presents a breakdown by the nature of claim for the 12,592 open claims for Premium Paying Agencies managed by Comcare as at 31 May 2014.

Table 1. Open claims by nature of claim

Nature of "open" claims	Number of "open" claims	% of all "open" claims
Psychological injury	2,393	19
Physical injury	5,666	45
Disease	4,533	36
Total	12,592	100