

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM0883\_15**

**Senator Tillem asked on 3 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 122**

**Question**

**Comparison of Comcare and state schemes**

Senator TILLEM: I wanted to finish off the Comcare issue that we raised earlier so that I, the committee and anyone who reads Hansard can get an understanding of the various schemes. I would like you to take on notice a case study of a 28-year-old worker who is a paraplegic and lives until he is 50 years old—how does the Comcare scheme compare to South Australia and New South Wales? I think that can provide a basis to work from. The adjustments are imminently doable based on whether it is a pension or whether it is indexed— Senator Abetz: We will take that on notice. But this is getting, I think, potentially very close to proffering legal advice on certain circumstances. We will take it on notice and see what we can do. Ms Parker: It is just very complex. We will take it on notice.

**Answer**

Each state and territory has its own workers' compensation scheme that are different in operation and application. Aspects such as coverage, benefits (including the period for which assistance is payable), return to work provisions, self-insurance, dispute resolution and cross-border arrangements differ across the various schemes.

A worker who is a paraplegic through a workplace accident may be eligible to receive weekly income replacement, medical expenses, attendant care and permanent impairment compensation, as well as common law damages.

Due to the differences between schemes it is not possible to provide an accurate comparison.

*The Comparison of Workers' Compensation Arrangements in Australia and New Zealand 2013*, published by Safe Work Australia, provides information on the operation of workers' compensation schemes in each of the jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand and outlines the similarities and differences in the schemes.

The document can be found at the following website:

[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/comparison2013](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/comparison2013)