

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. EM0884_15

Senator Tillem asked on 3 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 123

Question

Number of Active Field Inspectors

Ms Emery: You asked for the comparisons for each state and territory as compared to Comcare in terms of the number of field active inspectors per 10,000 employees. In New South Wales it is one; Victoria, 0.9; Queensland, 1.1; Western Australia, one; South Australia, 1.3; Tasmania, 1.5; Northern Territory, 1.1; the ACT, 1.7; and Comcare is one. Senator TILLEM: Do you have those as actual inspector numbers? Ms Emery: No. I have it as a comparison to the number of employees that they have to cover. Senator TILLEM: On notice, could I see if we can get access to the actual numbers, the bodies, of active inspectors? Ms Emery: We will take it on notice as to whether we can get that information.

Answer

The latest Comparative Performance Monitoring Report 15th Edition which was published in October 2013 on Safe Work Australia's website reports 1076 field active inspectors in Australia for the 2011–12 financial year.

This is broken down by jurisdictions as follows:

New South Wales 315; Victoria 240; Queensland 216; Western Australia 103; South Australia 93; Tasmania 31; Northern Territory 12; ACT 23; Comcare 39 and Seacare 4.

Currently Comcare has 53 field active inspectors which include nine additional and temporary inspectors conducting dedicated asbestos remediation inspections as part of government funding to promote safe work practices in the NBN rollout.