

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM0055\_14**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Departmental Reviews**

1) Since 7 September 2013, how many new Reviews 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. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

2) For any review commenced or ordered since 7 September 2013, 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 what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to 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,
  - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
  - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
  - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
  - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
  - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3) Since 7 September 2013, what reviews are on-going? Please list them.

4) Since 7 September 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.

5) Since Budget estimates, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.

- 6) Since 7 September 2013, 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?
    - i. If so, when?
- ii. If not, why not?

**Answer**

Details of the two reviews in the timeframe in the question are at Attachment A.

No reviews are planned.

## Attachment A – New Reviews

List any new Reviews that have commenced since 7 September.

Name of Review	Date ordered	Date Commenced	Minister responsible	Nature of the review/terms of reference/scope of the review	Expected report date	Will report be tabled or made public?	External people, companies or contractors engaged?	If so, name/trading name/known alias	Managing Director and board of Directors (or equivalent)	Nature of external people involvement
Firefighters Act Review	29 November 2013	2 December 2013	Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz, Minister Employment	<p>The <i>Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Act 2011</i> requires the Minister to cause an independent review of the amendments made by that Act to be completed no later than 31 December 2013.</p> <p>See <b>Note 1</b> below</p>	31 December 2013	The Act requires the report to be published on the Department's website	Yes	Raelene Sharp	Not applicable	<p>Raelene Sharp will undertake this independent review with the support of a secretariat provided by the Department of Employment. This will involve the part time commitment of 2x EL1 and 1x EL2 resources.</p> <p>The Department identified potential candidates to undertake the review and Ms Sharp was recommended to the Minister as the preferred candidate. The Minister for Employment agreed to the appointment of Ms Sharp on the recommendation of the Department of Employment.</p> <p>The lobbyist register can be seen at: <a href="http://lobbyists.pmc.gov.au/who_register.cfm">http://lobbyists.pmc.gov.au/who_register.cfm</a></p>
Road Safety Remuneration System	Election commitment Contract was signed 19 November 2013	20 November 2013	Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz, Minister Employment	The purpose of the Review is to assess the operation of the <i>Road Safety Remuneration Act 2012</i> and the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (together the "Road Safety Remuneration System") and advise Government on whether this system represents an effective and appropriate means of addressing safety concerns in the road transport industry.	March 2014	Yet to be determined	Yes	Rex Deighton-Smith, Jaguar Consulting Pty Ltd	n/a	<p>Mr Deighton-Smith is an Independent Consultant. The consultancy fee will be \$29,700.</p> <p>Mr Deighton-Smith will be supported by a team provided by the Department of Employment of 5.2 ASL in total - EL2 - 1.2ASL, EL1 - 2 ASL and AS06 - 2ASL.</p> <p>The Department of Employment identified Mr Deighton-Smith as a highly suitable person to conduct the review and recommended he be approached to conduct the Review. The Minister for Employment agreed to the Department's recommendation.</p>

### Note 1. Firefighters Act Review Terms of Reference

#### Background

On 7 December 2011, the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Act 2011* (the Firefighters' Act) amended the disease provisions contained in section 7 of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act) to simplify access to compensation for firefighters covered by the SRC Act.

The amendments introduced a presumption of liability for 12 types of prescribed cancers suffered by firefighters who meet certain qualifying requirements. The presumption applies to those firefighters who are diagnosed with the disease on or after 4 July 2011.

The Firefighters' Act requires that the responsible Minister commission an independent review of these provisions to be undertaken and completed no later than 31 December 2013.

This review of the Firefighter's Act aims to assess whether the amendments are operating as intended and have streamlined the determination of claims made by those firefighters seeking compensation for the listed cancers.

#### Terms of the review

The review will inquire and report on:

- how effective and efficient the firefighter provisions have been in providing streamlined determination of claims made by those firefighters seeking compensation for the prescribed cancers and consideration of the appropriateness of the prescribed cancers;
- what (if any) issues have emerged in the operation of the firefighters provisions, including whether the date of manifestation should be maintained;
- whether there are other ways to enable the streamlining of the determination of claims made by firefighters consistent with contemporary workers' compensation principles; and
- the affordability of any proposed recommendations.