

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM066_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Commissioned reports

- a) Since 7 September 2013, how many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

Two reviews, as referenced in the response to EM0055_14, will produce reports. Details are as follows:

Report title	Date commissioned	Date report handed to Government	Date of public release	Terms of Reference	Committee members	b) Cost/ estimated cost of the Report	c) Current status of the Report?	When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
Review of the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (<i>Fair Protection for Firefighters</i>) Act 2011	29 November 2013	Review in progress. Due to report 31 December 2013	The timing of the release of the report is for Government.	See Attachment A.	Ms Raelene Sharp	\$20,000	In development	The timing of any response to the report is for Government.
Review of the Road Safety Remuneration System	19 November 2013	Review in progress. Due to report March 2014.	Yet to be determined.	See Attachment A.	Mr Rex Deighton-Smith	\$29,700	In development	The timing of any response to the report is for Government.

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.

Review of the Road Safety Remuneration System Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Review

The purpose of the Review is to assess the operation of the *Road Safety Remuneration Act 2012* 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.

The scope of work

The Review will:

- assess the regulatory and economic burden of the Road Safety Remuneration System on participants in the road transport industry and the Australian economy generally;
- examine whether other Commonwealth, state and territory regulations and initiatives provide a more appropriate means of improving safety outcomes in the road transport industry;
- examine any available evidence about the impacts of the Road Safety Remuneration System on improving road safety (e.g. accident data);
- assess the operation and conduct of the Tribunal and the extent to which it has achieved its aim and objectives;
- consult relevant stakeholders as necessary; and
- make recommendations to Government, based on the evidence and assessment above.

Principles

The following principles will guide the Review:

- Eliminate duplication of regulation.
- Ensure that regulations and policies for improving safety performance in the road transport industry are based on credible evidence.

Consultation

In developing recommendations, the Review will detail the level of consultation undertaken with industry, government and other stakeholders and the outcomes of those consultations.

Outputs and reporting requirements

A report will be prepared for Government outlining any recommendations and their anticipated regulatory impact, supporting data and implementation and compliance strategies.