

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1109\_12**

**Senator Bilyk asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 71**

**Question**

**Comcare - massage program**

Mr O'Connor: I can advise that my understanding is that the clinical panel advice in speaking with the treating practitioners also took regard of what is the evidence-based clinical justification for continuing a massage program and trying to understand if that is the right clinical intervention, but I will certainly double-check for you and advise you if that is different. Senator BILYK: Would there be any documentation about that? Would there be notes or minutes? Mr O'Connor: I expect so. Senator BILYK: Am I able to have access to those? Mr O'Connor: I would assume so, subject to the normal privacy concerns, if the constituent is comfortable with that. Senator BILYK: If you could forward them to us as well, that would be of great help.

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response.*

There was a formal referral and also an email on file from the Comcare Clinical Panel member, outlining his discussion with the constituent's treating psychiatrist and confirming that massage would not be offered as per the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decision. A copy of these file documents will be sent directly to Senator Bilyk's office.

Comcare confirmed that the Clinical Panel member reviewed the medical evidence on the constituent's file and recent clinical studies which support the clinical benefits of an exercise program as an additional therapy in the treatment of psychological and psychiatric conditions. He also spoke to the constituent's treating psychiatrist who supported this approach, together with the constituent's re-engagement in psychological counseling. The Clinical Panel member concluded that massage should not be offered in accordance with the AAT decision.