

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW1112_12

Senator Bilyk asked on 15 February 2012, Hansard page 72

Question

Comcare - Ms Morrison

Senator BILYK: Bearing in mind it took until August 2011 for Comcare to accept any liability for the 1988 condition, I am still not completely happy about the reasoning behind those concerns. We can follow that up with Ms Morrison or someone else as well. Looking quickly at your mail again, I did notice—some might call it sarcasm; I will call it irony—that your logo is 'Putting you First'. I have to say: that did make me laugh, Mr O'Connor. Has that been around for 20-odd years or is it a new one? Mr O'Connor: No, that is fairly recent. It tries to embrace the approach within the Australian government to put citizens at the centre of everything that we do. Senator BILYK: Well, yes. Mr O'Connor: In some cases it can be an aspiration that we continue to strive for.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

Comcare has not made a determination about liability under Federal law because it has not received a claim.

Advice provided by Comcare to Senator Bilyk and her constituent indicated that based on available information, the December 1988 incident does not constitute a separate injury because it was not contributed to by employer.

The constituent has been provided with a form to submit a new claim if she wishes to pursue this matter. If a new claim is received a determination will be made.