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1 March 2013

Committee Secretary

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations – Legislation Committee

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations – Legislation Committee hearing on Wednesday 13 February 2013. I wish to correct an inadvertent error in evidence I presented to the Committee in response to a questions from Senator the Hon Eric Abetz as follows:

Senator Abetz: How may claims were settled in relation to bullying in the last calendar year?

Mr O'Connor: My understanding is that in 2012, just under 450 claims were received by Comcare in respect of workplace bullying.

Senator Abetz: Are they all Commonwealth (the 450 claims)?

Mr O'Connor: No. A smaller proportion of those relate to the Australian Capital Territory government as well. We have received just over 850 claims since 2009

The answers I provided were based on data which did not fully align with the Senator's question. The correct and complete statement is, in respect of work related bullying and/or harassment, 330 claims were received by Comcare in the 2012 calendar year and 1,248 claims were received in the four calendar years 2009 to 2012.

This data is the total for the Commonwealth and the ACT Government. For the Commonwealth alone, the corresponding figures are 289 claims received in the 2012 calendar and 1,104 claims received in the four calendar years 2009 to 2012. The data excludes claims from self-insured licensees, which are covered by the SRC Act but are not managed by Comcare.

I would appreciate it if you could draw this fact to the attention of the Committee and I apologise for any inconvenience.

Yours sincerely

Paul O'Connor