

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0151_14

Senator Tillem asked on 27 February 2014, Hansard page 38

Question

Companies joining the Comcare scheme

Senator TILLEM: Where companies choose to move from a state based system to Comcare, do the employees have a say in this process at all? Ms Parker: In the decision to move? Senator TILLEM: Yes. Ms Parker: They are required to consult their employees, on my understanding. I will need to check on the specifics of that. I can provide that. If you are here for the department's hearings later tonight we will have that information on the specifics of applying for you. I will see if I have got it here, but you might not want to be held up for the minute.

Answer

Yes. The *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* requires that, in order for the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission to be satisfied that it is appropriate to grant an applicant the licence sought, the Commission must be satisfied, among other things, that the grant of the licence will not be contrary to the interests of the employees of the potential licensee.

Regulations require that licence applicants must provide, among other things, evidence of employee consultation about the applicant's intention to apply for a licence.