

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

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

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM0193\_14**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Commissioned Reports**

- a) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or 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 or external 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**

Details are as follows:

Report title	a) 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 <i>Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Act 2011</i>	29 November 2013	24 December 2013	The report was published on the Department of Employment's website on 3 February 2014.	See <u>Attachment A</u> .	Ms Raelene Sharp	\$9 078.59  Ms Sharp was supported by a secretariat provided by the Department of Employment. This involved the commitment of: 2x EL1 x 0.5 FTE 1x EL2 x 0.3 FTE.	Completed	The timing of any response to the report is a matter for the 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.