

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS – 2-3 JUNE 2003

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

COMCARE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome: Comcare

Question Number: W059-04

Question:

Senator Carr asked in writing:

Were Mr Robinson's allegations explicitly supported by photographic evidence earlier provided by Mr Cropp, and were Mr Robinson's complaints that the "wet weather gear" provided to him by the NGA supported by explicit advice from Mr Ford and/or Mr Cropp that the respiratory equipment and other personal protective equipment provided did not comply with Australian standards or regulations and/or the relevant MSDS?

Answer:

Comcare has been provided with photographs of persons in wet weather gear and wearing face shields.

The Ombudsman considered that the photographs depicted NGA maintenance staff carrying out coil cleaning using hydrogen peroxide (CLS5) and that the personal protective equipment being used in the photographs was not consistent with the equipment required for use of CLS5 as detailed in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for that product.

The MSDS provides that no special protection is required other than a surgical face mask if the substance is continually sprayed and PVC or other impervious gloves if the substance is being continually handled. The photographs did not depict a person wearing a surgical face mask.

Mr Wray has subsequently dealt in significant detail with issues concerning the protective equipment available to Mr Robinson at the time the photographs were taken. This information is available in that report which has been tabled.