

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0238_10

Senator Humphries asked on Tuesday 2 June 2009, EEWL Hansard page 9.

Question

Asbestos claims and actions

Mr Dolan—There are a number of claims currently before the courts, and the best estimation we have is that there will be a considerable number in the future. It is very hard to entirely predict what that might be, but the estimate is that there probably exists something of the order of \$700 million or \$800 million worth of liabilities into the future.

Senator HUMPHRIES—That is represented by approximately how many claims or actions?

Mr Dolan—I would have to take that on notice, Senator. As you can understand, given the slow onset of asbestos diseases and so on, it is quite a complex and problematic actuarial calculation to work out what the future may be. But we can give you details of claims in the course of a year to give you some sense of the current pattern and some of the figures that drive that estimate of likely future liabilities.

Senator HUMPHRIES—I would appreciate that information if I could have it

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response:

Comcare's actuaries estimated on 30 June 2008 that Comcare's approximate future liabilities in relation to common law asbestos-related disease claims would be \$935.2 million and they anticipated a further 1,460 claims against Comcare.

Comcare's actuaries predicted the majority of primary disease claims would be made by 2040, with a gradual phasing out of all claims by June 2060.

Comcare is currently awaiting an updated actuarial estimate for 30 June 2009.