

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0035\_11**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**TRAINING**

Given the outcome is important in training, does the 2010 requirement completely remove the open ended architecture of the 2007 guidelines? I refer you to clause 3.2. Does it say that there are no set requirements about course length, format or how it is delivered?

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response*

Given the important role that health and safety representatives (HSRs) play in improving health and safety in the workplace, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) is committed to ensuring that accredited training courses achieve the highest quality outcomes.

The SRCC has revised the *Guidelines – Health and Safety Representatives training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction* (the Guidelines) in 2010 in the Commonwealth jurisdiction to take account of the findings of the review of the Health and Safety Representative Training Course Accreditation Program. An expected outcome of the revised Guidelines is that HSRs experience a learner centered environment that is focused on developing their knowledge, skills and competence and will therefore be able to carry out their role effectively and responsibly.

The SRCC has clarified and expressed its policy intention regarding format and delivery of training at Part 2 and Part 3 of the revised Guidelines. These Parts contain advice on the training and syllabus requirements for preparing health and safety representatives for their role.

Part 2 of the Guidelines do not prescribe a set curriculum for the training of HSRs, but rather sets out a number of factors to be considered when developing courses for accreditation.

The SRCC's training objectives and expected learning outcomes are included in Part 3 of the Guidelines. Part 3.2 sets out the mandatory practical skill development activities to be included in all courses submitted for accreditation.

In respect to flexible options in relation to the length of training, the Guidelines at Part

2.10 provide for one block of five consecutive days, two days plus three days or one day per week over five weeks. Further, the Guidelines provide for a number of practical skills development activities that involve visiting workplaces.