

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0105_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Refers to previous Question No [EW0718_11](#)

Follow up questions: 1.This answer says that there was an analysis of HSR training in other jurisdictions. Can you provide full details of the approaches in other jurisdictions? 2.What features of those were seen as being particularly valuable? 3.Was there an attempt to combine the best features of all the different approaches? 4.Is it true for instance that Queensland is 3 days, NSW is 4 days, South Australia has three levels, Basic, Continuing and Advanced, NT is 5 days, Vic is 5 days plus 1 day annual refreshers, WA aligns their course to a Certificate III, Tasmania is four days or 2 days refresher for people who have done it before, and the ACT is 28 hours delivered in any way with flexible delivery encouraged? 5.Given there is no consistent system, is it now completely obvious that an argument that this policy change was needed for consistency was false? 6.The previous Comcare approach stood out no more than any other model. Do you agree? 7.Is it true that the change really only matched one jurisdiction being Victoria? Do you regard Victoria as having a good model?

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

1-3. The reviewers considered the way in which HSR training was undertaken in the various jurisdictions and refers to various elements in the report. For example, Western Australia was considered a benchmark for the accreditation process. These factors were considered by the reviewers when framing their recommendations.

4. Currently, New South Wales has suspended applications for Occupational Health and Safety trainer accreditations in preparation for the implementation of the Model Work Health and Safety legislation on 1 January 2012. Previously it offered a 'consultation' course, which was 24 hours over four days. Queensland requires attendance at a five day core module and an industry-specific elective for it's workplace health and safety officers. They also offer a stand-alone course in issuing Provisional Improvement Notices for HSRs. Victoria requires attendance at a five day accredited course. Tasmania requires four days (or 2 day refresher training). Western Australia states that the nominal structure for delivery of introductory training is a block of five consecutive days. South Australia has three levels, the introductory course is five days. The Northern Territory is five days. The Australian Capital Territory is currently four days.

5. Comcare was concerned with the lack of consistency amongst providers accredited under the Comcare scheme when the review was announced. The matter of harmonisation and consistency between jurisdictions also became relevant during the period of the review.

6. The 2007 Guidelines were being reviewed in order to improve HSR training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction and to improve the accreditation process.
7. Comcare does not have an opinion specific to HSR training in Victoria.