

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0288_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 87.

Question

Delivery Mechanisms and Options

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Then looking at the responses from DEEWR, it clearly agrees with flexibility, and says that the variety in delivery mechanisms significantly improves access to training and outcomes for employees and employers. It says that variety in delivery mechanisms is valuable, it will improve access to training, it will improve outcomes and it will have benefits for employees and for employers. I do not want to verbal the department, but could you confirm for me that DEEWR was actually saying that flexibility should be kept? Mr Kibble: I can confirm that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Did the department also think that the range of options did not go far enough and suggested that distance learning and e-learning can be a valuable form of delivery, so possibly you can take that on notice as well. Mr Kibble: Yes, Senator. Senator ABETZ: If all that is correct, can you then tell us why you did not take notice of this fairly important submission from the department as to the importance of the flexibility.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

Comcare has taken this question to refer to the survey response submitted by Commissioner Michelle Baxter, the Commonwealth representative on the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) from Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations, dated 16 June 2009.

The response at question 1.5 states that (a) 'The variety in delivery mechanisms significantly improves access to training and outcomes for employees and employers' and (b) 'The Department notes that this section (1.5) does not mention distance learning or e-learning mechanisms. This could be a valuable mechanism for overcoming problems and gaps in the provision of training outside NSW, ACT and Vic.'

It should be noted that Commissioner Baxter was present at the SRCC meeting of 23 March 2010 where the draft revised guidelines were discussed and included in the out-of-sessions meeting on 8 April 2010 where they were endorsed.