

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0289_12

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

Question

Self-Insured Licensees

Mr Kibble: As I mentioned previously when I mentioned that we alerted all employers in the jurisdiction, that would incorporate self-insured licensees as well and so I think we provided this detail in the past on notice, but a number of HSRs from licensees did respond to the survey. I can provide you on notice a breakdown again of where the HSRs came from. Senator ABETZ: If you could, that would be very helpful. Did Australia Post communicate with Comcare about all this? Mr Kibble: I cannot recall. Senator ABETZ: Well, take it on notice, because they indicated to you a problem in the survey design, and did they say that the fact that 60 per cent of survey respondents preferred face-to-face training was not surprising, given that the majority of the survey respondents may have only ever experienced a five-day block course. Mr Kibble: I will confirm that on notice, yes. Senator ABETZ: Can you also indicate to us that of the training providers, and I think there were about 20 of them, from memory, 80 per cent of them in fact provided face-to-face. Mr Kibble: Yes, I can confirm most of the providers—

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

Comcare does not have information on all 629 responses. This information was held by the consultants engaged to conduct the review of HSR training course accreditation. The consultant did report that 135 different employers (both Commonwealth and private sector) were represented. The report identifies 'the top 10' sites from which results were received, and the corresponding number of respondents (totaling 403) as follows:

Company/Department:	
Australian Taxation Office	194
Centrelink	53
Department of Defence / RAAF	46
TNT	27
Australian Customs	22
Thales	16
Department of Immigration And Citizenship	13
Medicare	13
Telstra	10
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	9

Australia Post did participate in the review. Australia Post also provided comments on the draft report on 29 January 2010.

Australia Post stated that it was unsurprised 'that over 60% of respondents preferred a five-day block approach' because that may be all that they had experienced. Australia Post did not indicate that there was any problem with the design of the survey.

Comcare has taken the last part of the question to refer to June 2009, when the survey was undertaken. All the HSR training course providers at that time, except one, provided face-to-face training over either four or five days for full courses.