

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Agency - Comcare**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0204\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012, Hansard page 84**

**Question**

**Comcare - ANSTO Report**

Senator ABETZ: In this report we are told that a Mr Blissett said: ANSTO absolutely rejects the reference to 'pretext', but will leave it to Comcare to explain the terminology. What did you mean in the report when you referred to the 'pretext' as contained in this media story? Mr O'Connor: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have any comment on that.

**Answer**

*Comcare has provided the following response.*

The author of the report is no longer employed by Comcare. Therefore Comcare cannot offer a definitive statement about what was meant by the use of the word 'pretext'. This response is based on the context of the report.

A Comcare inspector completed an investigation into allegations raised about the circumstances that led to the suspension of two workers. The inspector determined the evidence did not establish a contravention. The reference to 'pretext' relates to a finding that the employer's internal report was flawed, and did not follow an accepted investigation methodology. The action taken as a result of the internal ANSTO investigation was found by the inspector not to have been based on a balanced and impartial investigative approach. This was addressed in the recommendations of the Comcare investigation.

Comcare is monitoring the implementation of the findings of the investigation.

The report is available publicly on Comcare's Freedom of Information disclosure log.