

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No. EW0205_13

Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012, Hansard page 84

Question

CSIRO

Senator ABETZ: A deputy chief executive of CSIRO read some sections of the recently written draft report into that case at an estimates hearing earlier today. He said there were four areas of this investigation and, I think, that the report had reached a conclusion that there is essentially no bullying at CSIRO. That is a paraphrase of what I have been given as a typed version, so I cannot take it further than that. The Hansard record will undoubtedly reveal if that is the case, but I assume that if it did occur—and I want a caveat to this question, if it did occur—you can advise that no clearance was sought from Comcare prior to that occurring. Mr O'Connor: We will take that as a question.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

A Comcare inspector provided CSIRO with a draft investigation report on 23 May 2012. The draft report was given to CSIRO as a matter of courtesy, for the purpose of allowing comment on any errors of fact or omissions.

The inspector made it clear when he provided the report, and subsequently in writing, that the draft investigation report was provided to the CSIRO in confidence. CSIRO was requested to 'limit the access to the report to those within CSIRO as necessary'.

CSIRO had not approached Comcare prior to providing information to the Senate Estimates Committee about the draft report.