

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 5 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0763\_12**

**Senator Xenophon asked on 19 October 2011 , Hansard page 73**

***Comcare - CCDA Scheme***

**Question**

Senator XENOPHON: Further to that, has any special group been formed to deal with this issue? If it has, how many times have they met? Has a timeline being created for the creation and implementation of such a scheme? If so, when does it propose that the scheme be in place? Mr O'Connor: It is probably best that I take that on notice and give you the answer as to the membership of that. We do have a working group tasked with that with clear responsibility in terms of Comcare officials who are supporting the work of the two policy departments that are progressing that. The timetable in terms of any suggested possible legislative amendment obviously would be subject to what the government's view is in progressing that and any other suggested changes that had been tabled in this House and in the other place.

Senator XENOPHON: Further that to that, if I can put on notice for a copy to be tabled of the timeline of the scheduling for the work done on this in getting a bill? And will a consultative draft of the scheme be released? And if so, what is an approximate time line for that? Mr O'Connor: I will take that on notice.

**Answer**

Officers of Comcare, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Finance and Deregulation have met together, and one-on-one, on at least five occasions this year to discuss how, consistent with its enabling legislation, Comcare could be empowered to make discretionary payments in respect of detriment caused by defective administration. The most recent meeting was on 4 November 2011.

The timing of any amendments and any consultation on same is a matter for Government.