

WORKSAFE — WORKPLACE INSPECTORS

5959. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the WorkSafe Division within the 2010–11 Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, and I ask —

- (1) Of the 9,400 investigations completed in 2010–11, how many —
 - (a) were initiated following employee notifications of workplace occupational health and safety issues;
 - (b) were initiated by WorkSafe inspectors on basis of its own information; and
 - (c) were proactive investigations as part of WorkSafe’s general monitoring of workplace safety?
- (2) In respect of the investigations in (1)(b) —
 - (a) what was the average time between WorkSafe’s receipt of a notification and —
 - (i) the commencement of an investigation;
 - (ii) any workplace inspections;
 - (iii) the resolution of an investigation;
 - (b) in how many investigations did a WorkSafe inspector make a workplace visit —
 - (i) during the investigation; and
 - (ii) to follow up any enforcement action?
- (3) In respect of the investigations in (1)(a) and (c) —
 - (a) what was the average time between the commencement of an investigation and —
 - (i) any workplace inspections;
 - (ii) the resolution of an investigation;
 - (b) in how many investigations did a WorkSafe inspector make a workplace visit —
 - (i) during the investigation; and
 - (ii) to follow up any enforcement action?

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN replied:

- (1) (a) WorkSafe’s computerised system does not search on the employment status of people who make notifications of workplace occupational health and safety issues. Consequently, the information requested is not available. However, as at 18 September 2012, the system shows that in the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, WorkSafe completed 4,970 ‘reactive’ investigations.
(b)–(c) For record-keeping purposes, WorkSafe divides its investigations into two classes—‘reactive’ investigations and ‘proactive’ investigations. The investigations referred to in the Member’s question would be classed as ‘proactive’ investigations. As at 18 September 2012, the system shows that in the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, WorkSafe completed 4,503 ‘proactive’ investigations.
- (2) (a) (i)–(iii) The information recorded in WorkSafe’s computerised system is not kept in a manner that enables these statistics to be provided. However, the computerised system does provide a figure for the average number of days taken to complete an investigation. As at 18 September 2012, the system shows that in the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the average number of days to complete a ‘proactive’ investigation was 8.7.
(b) (i)–(ii) The information recorded in WorkSafe’s computerised system is not kept in a manner that enables these statistics to be provided. However, for the 4,503 completed ‘proactive’ investigations stated in the answer to question (1)(b), WorkSafe’s computerised system shows 5,717 visits.
- (3) (a)–(b) The information recorded in WorkSafe’s computerised system is not kept in a manner that enables these statistics to be provided. However, for the 4,970 completed ‘reactive’ investigations, WorkSafe’s computerised system shows 4,758 visits were made. For the 4,503

completed 'proactive' investigations stated in the answer to question (1)(b), WorkSafe's computerised system shows 5,717 visits were made.