



Australian Government

Comcare

## Questions regarding the number of suicide and bullying incidences involving the Department of Veteran Affairs

### 1. Number of Deaths of all Department of Veterans affairs staff suicide's categorised by states for the past 10 years.

A review of Work, Health and Safety (WHS) incidents reported to Comcare by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) from 1 January 2008 to 12 February 2018 indicates there does not appear to be any incident notifications related to worker suicides.

### 2. Statistics data on Staff that did not approach Comcare regarding bullying in the work place at the Department of Veterans affairs. Also surveys data statistics on why staff will not approach comcare regarding bullying.

Comcare does not have any information captured in relation to this query.

### 3. I am seeking Survey's information and statistics from staff that have been published and organised by comcare to Public service staff. (As I am unable to find these under the public access search structures)

After further clarification from yourself in emails of 27 and 28 February 2018, my interpretation is that you are seeking access to statistics regarding how successful Comcare's investigations into bullying and harassment incidents have been. Comcare does not have any information captured in relation to this query.

When an incident is reported and Comcare decides to initiate a compliance monitoring activity, it will assess if the employer has appropriate safe systems of work in place. If it is decided that the Employer has not implemented appropriate safe systems of work, or it has not complied with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, Comcare may use various compliance enforcement tools under its statutory powers to rectify the compliance issues. This can also include seeking a judicial outcome in the courts.

### 4. Suicide statistics of Veterans spouses and children.

Comcare does not have any information captured in relation to this query.

### 5. Statistics of bullying at the Department of veterans Affairs case's closed in the two below catergories

#### 5a. Cases investigated and closed.

#### 5b. Cases not investigated or initiated and closed.

WHS Concerns are WHS incidents made known to Comcare through means other than notifications, including complaints or allegations.

A review of WHS concerns created from 1 January 2008 to 12 February 2018 relating to workplace bullying at the DVA indicates that Comcare received six (6) workplace bullying allegations in the period. Comcare responded to each of the six (6) workplace bullying allegations received and commenced seven (7) monitoring compliance activities in response to these allegations, all of which are now closed.