



Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities

Australia and New Zealand

MEDIA RELEASE

Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities meets in Adelaide.

The Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) met in Adelaide, South Australia on 16 February 2007. A number of key issues were considered including the development of a framework for the national accreditation of rehabilitation providers; progress on the national self-insurance harmonisation project; and cross-border workers compensation arrangements.

Further news and updates regarding the Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities throughout Australia and New Zealand are available on the HWCA website on www.hwca.org.au.

Decisions and outcomes of the HWCA meeting are outlined in the attached communiqué.

Mr. Jon Blackwell
Chair

16 February 2007

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COMMUNIQUE OF THE HEADS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AUTHORITIES

Key issues discussed and matters agreed by HWCA at its 16 February 2007 meeting are outlined below:

2007 Institute of Actuaries Australia Conference

The Institute of Actuaries Australia will hold the XI Accident Compensation Seminar in Melbourne from 1 to 4 April 2007. HWCA members will present papers on the following topics at the seminar:

- Creating a service-focussed industry;
- Facilitators and barriers to return to work following workplace injury – the strengths and deficiencies of the research literature;
- Funding Shocks to the Accident Compensation Corporation (New Zealand) Workers' Compensation Scheme (Employer Account);

Further information on the seminar program can be found at:

<http://www.actuaries.asn.au/IAA/Templates/Events/SeminarProgram.asp?eventID=872&day=4>

National Accreditation of Rehabilitation Providers Working Group

HWCA has agreed to develop a nationally consistent framework for the accreditation of rehabilitation providers. A reference group will be established to determine issues such as the standards and conditions of accreditation; a service model with measurable indicators; service descriptors and delivery expectations; minimum qualifications for providers; a standard electronic form for applications and renewals; process for consultation with key stakeholders.

National Self Insurance Harmonisation Project

The HWCA National Self Insurance Working Group (NSIWG) was established and charged with undertaking a series of projects aimed at improving the national harmonisation of self- insurance arrangements.

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Considerable progress has been made in the areas of developing a standard set of financial indicators; harmonisation of bank guarantees and security requirements; employer size; development of an OHS audit tool; claims and injury management; and the development of a common data set and reporting.

HWCA members discussed the possibility of conducting future projects on the harmonisation of self-insurance arrangements.

Members also discussed the National Self-Insurer Occupational Health and Safety Audit Tool. States and Territories have agreed to adopt the tool for multi state self insurers and will commence the preparation of an implementation plan for each jurisdiction in consultation with the National Council of Self Insurers.

Cross-Border Workers Compensation Arrangements – Expatriate Workers

The HWCA Definition of a Worker Working Group has been examining the issue of cross-border coverage of expatriates and raised a number of issues that were considered by HWCA members. It was agreed that the Working Group should undertake further work in relation to the meaning of 'working temporarily overseas' with a view to developing guidelines; and will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government in ensuring that employers of temporary skilled workers from overseas are insuring all workers.

HWCA acknowledged that all jurisdictions have introduced reciprocal cross border legislation.

News & Updates

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