



# Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities

Australia and New Zealand

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities meets in New Zealand.**

The Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) met in Wellington, New Zealand on 22 June 2007. A number of key issues were considered including the development of a framework for the national accreditation of rehabilitation providers and progress on the national self-insurance harmonisation project. Members also attended a workshop conducted by New Zealand's Accident Compensation Corporation on *Developing Effective Provider Relationships*.

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](http://www.hwca.org.au).

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

**Mr. Jon Blackwell**  
**Chair**

26 June 2007

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## COMMUNIQUE OF THE HEADS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AUTHORITIES

Key issues discussed and matters agreed by HWCA at its 22 June 2007 meeting are outlined below:

### **2007 Institute of Actuaries Australia Conference**

The Institute of Actuaries Australia held the XI Accident Compensation Seminar in Melbourne from 1 to 4 April 2007. HWCA members presented three papers that were presented as a single 'stream' in the afternoon session on Monday 2 April.

The papers covered the following topics:

- 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).

Organisers were delighted with the initiative and have encouraged HWCA to include other such activities at future seminars.

### **National Accreditation of Rehabilitation Providers Working Group**

HWCA has established a reference group to oversee the development of a work plan for a nationally consistent accreditation framework for rehabilitation providers.

The purpose of a nationally consistent accreditation framework is to:

- Ensure a robust accreditation system across the jurisdictions;
- Enable the objective measurement of provider performance against conditions of accreditation; and
- Establish standards designed to deliver high quality workplace based rehabilitation to workers, employers and insurers.

The reference group has developed a work plan that includes a consultation strategy. The strategy details the processes for consultation with the National Australian Rehabilitation Providers' Association (ARPA) and other stakeholders.

### **National Self Insurance Harmonisation Project**

Following consultation with the National Council of Self Insurers (NCSI), the HWCA endorsed a timetable implementing the following projects:

1. Common set of financial indicators
2. Multi-state financial application process
3. Information sharing protocol for regulators
4. Dispute management process

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5. Bank guarantees and security requirements
6. National Occupational Health and Safety Audit Tool.

These projects involve administrative changes without the need for legislative change, contributing to the inter-jurisdictional 10-point plan endorsed by the Council for the Australia Federation.

HWCA members discussed the possibility of conducting future projects on the harmonisation of self-insurance arrangements once the current harmonisation activities are completed. NSIWG will continue to discuss common scheme self-insurance issues on a quarterly basis to capitalise on the successes of this group to date.

## **HWCA Work Plan 2007-2009**

Following the review of the HWCA Charter last year, members endorsed the HWCA Work Plan 2007 – 2009, which will be made available shortly on the HWCA website.

## **News & Updates**

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