



MEDIA RELEASE

HWCA progress on Aust-NZ workers compensation strategy

19 June 2009

The Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) met in Sydney last week to continue work on an Australian and New Zealand Workers Compensation Strategy.

HWCA Chair, Jon Blackwell, welcomed the progress on finalising the strategy, which is designed to deliver a coordinated approach to workers compensation across Australia and New Zealand over the next three years.

Members agreed that some further work on the strategy was required, with the aim to have an out-of-session in-principle endorsement of the strategy. A technical group will be convened in July to finalise targets and measures to support the strategy.

HWCA agreed to further investigate a proposal to create an inter-jurisdictional injury management agreement, which would facilitate the management of claimants who reside outside their home jurisdiction.

Members were advised that the working group established to review the National Self-Insurer OHS Audit Tool has completed its review of the Audit Tool. The working group will now work on progressing the development of a common assessment methodology to support the Audit Tool.

Members reviewed the draft agreement to facilitate information sharing between participating jurisdictions that has been developed as part of the Nationally Consistent Approval Framework for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers. It is planned that the agreement will be endorsed at the next HWCA meeting.

HWCA is a group comprising the Chief Executives (or their representatives) of the peak bodies responsible for the regulation of workers compensation in Australia and New Zealand. Further information about HWCA activities is available from the website at www.hwca.org.au

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Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities

Australia and New Zealand

COMMUNIQUÉ OF MEETING OUTCOMES

The Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) discussed and agreed to the following key matters at its 11 June 2009 meeting.

HWCA Australian and New Zealand Workers Compensation Strategy

HWCA members continued to develop and refine the HWCA Australian and New Zealand Workers Compensation Strategy. The strategy is intended to provide a coordinated approach to workers compensation across Australia and New Zealand over the next three years.

It was agreed that some further work on the strategy is required, with the aim to have in-principle endorsement of the strategy out-of-session.

A technical group will be convened to finalise targets and measures to support the strategy.

Injury Management Across Borders

Members agreed to further investigate a proposal to create an inter-jurisdictional injury management agreement. Such an agreement could be used for managing claimants who reside outside their home jurisdiction.

Institute of Actuaries Australia 2009 Accident Compensation Seminar

HWCA members agreed to present a stream of papers at the upcoming 2009 Institute of Actuaries Accident Compensation Seminar. It was also agreed that jurisdictions would provide a scheme update at the conference.

National Injury Management Conference

Members supported HWCA's involvement in the 4th National Injury Management Conference being held in May 2010 in Sydney. Members discussed potential options such as HWCA members participating in a panel discussion at the conference.

Nationally Consistent Approval Framework for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers

Members noted the progress of the working party for Nationally Consistent Approval Framework for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers. The agreement will facilitate information sharing between participating jurisdictions and is planned to be endorsed at the next HWCA meeting.

Review of the National OHS Tool

Members were advised of the progress of the National OHS Audit Tool working group. The working group has reviewed the National Self-Insurer OHS Audit Tool and is now progressing work on the development of a common assessment methodology to support the tool.

Next meeting and workshop

The next HWCA meeting will be held on 2 October 2009, in Canberra, ACT.

News and updates

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

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