

**Queensland State Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Leckhampton Offices Level 2 59-69 Shafston Avenue
Kangaroo Point QLD Australia 4169**

14 July 2016

ETISBC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Research Director
Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

RE: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for your consultation on the **Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016**. RACS appreciates that workers compensation and rehabilitation plays a significant role across the recently commenced **National Injury Insurance Scheme**.

As the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is committed to taking informed and principled positions on issues of public health at both state and federal level.

RACS notes the legislative amendments bring the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation ACT 2003 into line with requirements needed for the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the establishment of the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland.

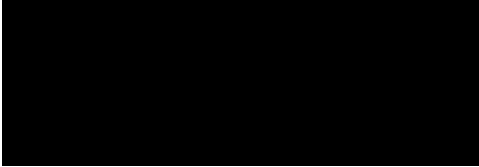
RACS particularly notes that the bill is designed to be:

Consistent with the parliamentary committee's recommendation, the bill proposes arrangements for treatment, care and support payments within Queensland's workers compensation scheme which align with the arrangements under the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland for motor vehicle accidents established under the National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016. These arrangements involve extending existing no-fault statutory compensation entitlements for injured workers who sustain serious personal injuries on or after 1 July 2016, while retaining common law rights to claim damages for treatment, care and support of injured workers who can establish their employer was at fault in causing their injury.

Under the proposed amendments, access to treatment, care and support payments will be available through the existing process under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 where claimants can apply for statutory compensation benefits on the basis that they are a worker who has a work related injury. Workers will be eligible for treatment, care and support payments if they sustain serious personal injuries that include a serious permanent spinal injury, a traumatic brain injury, high level or multiple amputations, severe burns or permanent traumatic blindness.

RACS has been working closely with the Insurance Commissioner and is looking forward to the ongoing development and implementation of the NIIS and that it will bring changes to benefit those members of the community who suffer catastrophic injuries.

Yours Sincerely,



Owen Ung
Chair, Queensland State Committee