

The Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

111



Dear Ms Jeffrey

RE: Inquiry into Queensland's Workers Compensation Scheme

The Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce represents local businesses and industries in the Southern Gold Coast region (Currumbin, Tugun, Bilinga, Kirra, Coolangatta & Rainbow Bay).

The Chamber recognises the vital role that a competitive business operating environment plays in building and sustaining the Queensland economy. Creating a strong business operating environment that allows local industries to compete globally is pivotal to the economic wellbeing of Queensland. Queensland's workers' compensation premiums are a central element in our State's efforts to keep our business operating environment competitive.

The Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce supports the following recommendations put forward by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ):

- The State Government commit to the introduction of a Whole Person Impairment (WPI) threshold to accessing common law damages and a working party be established to determine the appropriate threshold level (0-15 per cent)
- Increased emphasis on injury prevention and harm-minimisation strategies in the workplace
- Recognition of efforts and investment by employers in workplace health and safety and injury prevention through lower WorkCover premiums
- Increased emphasis on worker accountability
- Specialist medical advice and documentation to be sought in relation to psychological 'stress' claims.
- Strengthening the requirements to prove an injury occurred in the workplace
- Exclusion of the journey to and from work in claims for compensation
- Narrowing the definition of workplace 'injury' so that employment is 'the significant contributing factor' to the injury.

The Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends the adoption of these recommendations as a further improvement to Queensland's workers compensation scheme. For information on any of these recommendations, please refer to CCIQ's submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Gail O'Neill