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



Dear Ms Jeffrey

RE: Inquiry into Queensland's Workers Compensation Scheme

The Brisbane North Chamber of Commerce (BNCC) represents local businesses and industries in the Brisbane North region.

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 BNCC 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

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- Narrowing the definition of workplace 'injury' so that employment is 'the significant contributing factor' to the injury.

The BNCC 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Penrose".

Simon Penrose
BNCC President

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