



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

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03 SEP 2012

Finance and  
Administration Committee

Dear Ms Jeffrey

**RE: Inquiry into Queensland's Workers Compensation Scheme**

The SEBCC - South East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce represents local businesses and industries in the South East area of Brisbane 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 SEBCC 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 SEBCC 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

  
Penny Cutting  
President

[president@sebccc.com.au](mailto:president@sebccc.com.au)

3899 8805

0418 811 345