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Mr Michael Crandon
Chairperson
Finance & Administration Committee
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Dear Michael

**RE: Finance and Administration Committee –
Inquiry into the Operations of the Queensland Workers' Compensation Scheme**

On behalf of the Association of Self Insured Employers of Queensland (ASIEQ) I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee at the hearing on the 14th November 2012. Our association has for several years been at the forefront of promoting positive change within the Queensland workers' compensation scheme and supports the objectives of the inquiry.

While we were able to explore and discuss some of the complex issues facing the scheme at the hearing many of the issues raised in our submission were not addressed due to obvious time constraints. Without diminishing the issues that were raised we would like to highlight the need for changes to the objectives of the Act to encourage and promote injury prevention and responsive injury management to achieve better outcomes for workers.

Our submission recommended two changes in that regard: i) change Section 5 (1) (b) to "encouraging improved health, safety and injury management performance by employers", and, ii) include 5 (4) (f) Provide for flexible employer based injury management arrangements suited to the particular needs of industry.

Our experience has shown that just providing flexible insurance arrangements as an objective, does not provide the scope to encourage individual employers to develop employer based injury management arrangements suited to the particular needs of their operations and workforce. Griffiths University research has shown that employers that develop their own injury management systems, in consultation with their workforce and without a focus on insurance, achieve the best outcomes for workers and business.

These simple changes will help employers focus on positive outcomes for injured workers and reflect the government's desire to bring together injury prevention and responsive injury management to achieve better outcomes for workers.

Our association acknowledges the difficult task that faces the committee and thanks you for your consideration of our submission with its specific recommendations. We look forward to assisting the committee and relevant departments in implementing any changes that may flow from the inquiry.

I have enclosed some copies of our 2013 EBIM calendar and 2013 conference brochure for the committee members which highlight the positive messages and the constructive relationships we have fostered with both state and national organisations as we promote positive outcomes for injured workers.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Barham
Chairperson