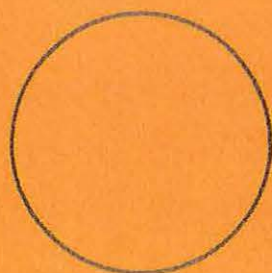
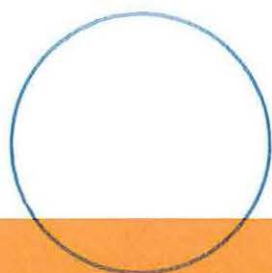
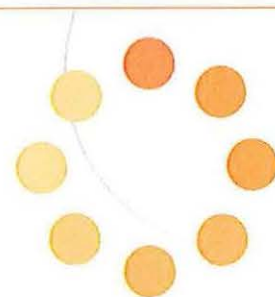




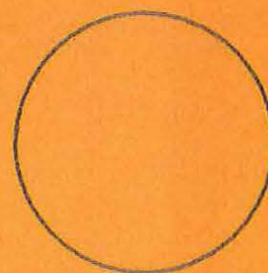
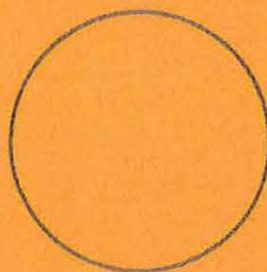
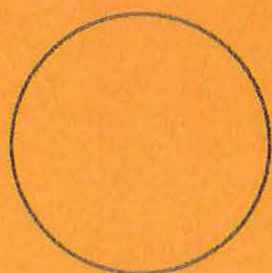
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Supplementary Submissions on
**Workers' Compensation
Entitlements for Work
Related Melanoma Disease**



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Supplementary Submissions on Workers' Compensation Entitlements for Work Related Melanoma Disease

In addition to the submission that has been provided to the Finance & Administration Committee, Melanoma Patients Australia would like to highlight the following important points:-

Rare claims - with decline

Important facts:-

- Whilst there appears to have been a spike in claim numbers during the September 2011 to March 2012 period, **solar claim numbers have now returned to almost historical levels.**
- In September 2012 **only 25 solar claims were lodged.**
- Solar claims have **declined in the last 6 months.**
- The recent data noted above further supports the previous finding that solar claims are **rare**¹.

Payments already capped - reasonable claim costs

- Compensation payments for **solar claims are capped** under the *Workers' Compensation & Rehabilitation Act 2003*.
- The **maximum amount** of compensation that can be awarded for solar induced skin disease is for a **25% impairment** of the whole person².
- The average claim cost for 2011/12 YTD has **reduced** to levels slightly above 2009/10³.
- Solar claims represent only 1.4% of total statutory payments⁴.

Hearing loss v solar claims

- Comparing hearing loss and solar claims is like comparing night and day. Hearing loss is not a latent onset injury of the character of asbestos and melanoma claims.
- There is a direct correlation between hearing loss and the aging process. Hence, a 12 month limitation period to lodge hearing loss claims from retirement is entirely reasonable.

- On the other hand, work related skin cancers and melanomas (like asbestos cancer) tend to develop post retirement. The latency period for the development of solar disease from sun exposure in the workplace can be decades.
- It would be perverse to impose a 12 month limitation period to the lodgement of such claims from retirement.

Workplace sun exposure must play a significant role

- There are rigorous measures in place to ensure attribution from sun exposure in the workplace. In this regard:-
 - i. Workers must provide a detailed statutory declaration on their workplace and leisure sun exposure.
 - ii. Witnesses must confirm the workplace sun exposure. Insurers have the opportunity to interview any witness.
 - iii. In general, most claims are then reviewed by an expert dermatologist or doctor with specific expertise in the area of solar claims.
 - iv. employers have an opportunity to lodge an appeal to QComp should they feel a decision is unjustly made. This provides an appropriate check and balance on the scheme.
- Only those workers with significant workplace sun exposure and chronic skin disease are awarded compensation.

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Melanoma Patients Australia

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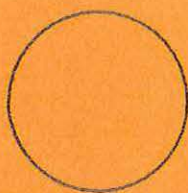
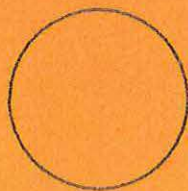
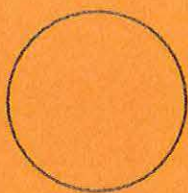
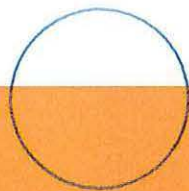
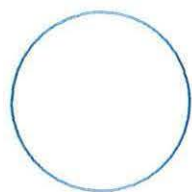
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¹ Information paper prepared by Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Q-Comp and WorkCover Queensland – page 5

² *Workers' Compensation & Rehabilitation Regulations 2003*

³ Queensland workers' compensation claims monitoring report prepared by Q-Comp – p25

⁴ Ibid



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