

Mr Michael Crandon
Committee Chair

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Mr Curtis Pitt
Committee Deputy Chair

Chair Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

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I am writing to you in relation to the inquiry by the Finance and Administration Committee into the Workers' Compensation Scheme in Queensland. Of particular concern to me is employees' access to claims for workcover when travelling to and from work.

Out at Injune, each day when we go to work we are provided with transport to and from the camp site to the worksite by the employer. As part of our conditions of employment some of the time spent travelling is considered to be work time and some of the time spent travelling is not considered to be work time, so would be considered travel to and from work.

The roads that we travel on are not very good – some parts are bitumen, other parts are not. The first 30 kilometres of road leaving Injune are not in very good condition – it is bumpy and the road is full of potholes. I have experienced back pain as a result of travelling on this road.

Recently one of my co-workers seriously hurt his back during the travel to and from the work site. As a result of this he required some time off work. He also required an MRI to ensure that he had not damaged any of the discs in his back. As I understand it, under the current Workers' Compensation Scheme, he is covered for travel to and from work, but some submissions have suggested that cover should be removed. In his circumstances this could have a dramatic impact on his life, and that of his family.

I urge the committee to ensure that all employees in Queensland continue to have access to workcover when travelling to and from work, particularly in circumstances where they are working in regional and remote areas that require long distance travel over poor quality roads.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

David Hayes
David Hayes

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