

Monday, 29 October 2012



Dear Debra

Re: Queensland Workers' Compensation Scheme

On behalf of Jimbour Butchery, I write concerning the above subject. I am aware that the *Finance and Administration Committee* of the Queensland Parliament is presently conducting a review of the key aspects of the Scheme.

We are a member of an Industry Organisation and that organisation has made submissions to the Committee. Nevertheless, we thought we would correspond with you direct on the subject.

Workers' Compensation and the way the Scheme is administered appears to be strangling business. We employ people and we contribute our fair share. I list some of the contentious matters:

- Escalating costs/premiums;
- Common law claims with no pre-conditions;
- Journey claims;
- Employers finding out about claims after the claim is lodged or even when the employee has left employment;
- The medical profession and questionable decisions or lack of co-operation of doctors (including significant decisions made by GP's about return to work with no knowledge of the workplace environment);
- The ease with which employees can obtain medical certificates;
- Lack of co-operation of employees in return to work programs;
- Little incentives for employees to return to work given the payments;
- Limited investigation of claims by WorkCover;
- Limited investigation by WorkCover of pre-existing injuries;
- Involvement of lawyers and 'no win no fee' in common law matters;
- Lost time in assessing claims thereby affecting rehabilitation;
- Denying employers access to employee's previous claims history that was formerly available.

These are some of the problems and we bring them to your attention in the hope you may express our views to the Committee and the relevant Minister so that positive action may be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely

Lincoln & Belinda Waldock
Proprietors