



23 June 2015

Ms D Farmer MP
Chair, Finance and Administrative Committee
Parliament House, George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

RE: Inquiry into Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Dear Ms Farmer,

We welcome the opportunity to provide further information relating to our submission to your Committee's inquiry into the *Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*. In direct response to the Committee's two questions:

- 1) The Bill was discussed with QFF by staff from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. We were content with the level of consultation undertaken, which enabled us to work with our members to develop an informed submission to your inquiry.
- 2) The Bill proposes to define any injury or illness that causes "the person to be absent from the person's voluntary or paid employment for more than 4 days" as a 'serious injury or illness' and therefore requiring mandatory notification. Unlike the existing definitions of a 'serious injury or illness', this definition is potentially influenced by the employer's behaviour and is a more subjective and inconsistent gauge of the seriousness of an incident. The proposed changes may have the perverse effect of discouraging employers from offering their employees additional time to fully recover from minor incidents. An employer who currently allows their employee a full week off to recover from a minor incident, may no longer be as generous if faced with an additional mandatory administrative obligation. As such, QFF recommends that the committee maintains the current practice with regards to Incident notification. The current definitions have worked well and provide an objective benchmark for serious injury or illness.

QFF thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide further information. We would note that this supplementary submission does not supersede any comments or positions that our individual member organisations may have in relation to this Bill.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer

