Question on Notice

No. 453

Asked on Wednesday, 1 August 2012

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (MR BLEIJIE)–

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Government Gazette dated 29 June 2012 where it advised WorkCover Queensland paid to the Department of Justice and Attorney General $46,804,266 and the Worker's Compensation Regulatory Authority paid $5,814,358—

Will these payments result in an increase in premiums to policy holders and will the $46,804,266 payment undermine the financial stability of WorkCover Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for her question.

WorkCover Queensland and Q-COMP payments will not have an adverse impact on the premiums paid by employers or affect the financial stability of WorkCover Queensland.

Like workers' compensation arrangements in most Australian jurisdictions, WorkCover Queensland and Q-COMP (the Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority) contribute to the cost of injury prevention advisory and compliance services.

Since 1989, the department of the Minister responsible for work health and safety has received a payment from the body responsible for workers' compensation to assist in the delivery of injury prevention programs. The payment is a core part of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's (WHSQ) budget and is used to deliver key programs.

WorkCover and Q-COMP factor the payment into their yearly estimates of expenditure. Approximately 89 per cent of the grant is paid by WorkCover and the other 11 per cent is paid by Q-COMP, using amounts collected from self-insurers.

The payments for 'the prevention of injury to workers' paid to WHSQ are agreed with WorkCover Queensland and Q-COMP prior to finalising their budgets. This funding goes directly into work health and safety injury prevention programs, which benefit employers and workers by minimising work-related fatalities and injuries, and resultant claims and claims costs for compensation.