



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME REPORT RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 March 2017

The Upper House committee on Law and Justice today tabled a report reviewing the state's workers compensation scheme.

The committee previously examined the scheme as part of its review of the WorkCover Authority in 2014. Subsequent to the committee's recommendations, the NSW Government abolished WorkCover and created three new agencies to assume its roles – the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA), Insurance and Care NSW (icare) and SafeWork NSW. This is the committee's first review since these structural reforms.

Committee Chair, the Hon Shayne Mallard, said: "In 2015, following the scheme's improved financial performance, the government implemented a \$1 billion package that expanded access to medical and other benefits and reduced premiums."

Mr Mallard continued: "However, evidence received by the committee suggests further reforms are needed. A key issue throughout this review was the complexity of the dispute resolution processes for work capacity decisions and liability decisions. The current bifurcated system is impenetrable for many scheme participants and creates more problems than it solves. To address these concerns, the committee has recommended the government establish a 'one stop shop' dispute resolution forum – a single jurisdiction that can determine all workers compensation disputes."

Mr Mallard stated: "During this review the committee's attention was repeatedly drawn to issues with insurer conduct. The committee views the upcoming negotiations for a new deed between icare and the scheme agents as an opportunity to address some of these concerns and to ensure injured workers are better supported throughout the life of their claim."

The committee thanks all stakeholders who participated in the review for their valuable contribution. For further information about the review please visit the committee's website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice.



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*For further comment please contact the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC
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