



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Upper House committee inquiry into bill to restrict claims for workers compensation for COVID

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**26 NOVEMBER 2021**

An Upper House committee has commenced an inquiry into a bill that will remove the presumption for certain workers who contract COVID-19, that they contracted the virus in the course of their employment. These employees will now have to demonstrate that they contracted COVID at their workplace in order to claim workers compensation.

The NSW Government introduced the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2021 on 17 November 2021. The Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly, but the Legislative Council voted to refer it to a non-government dominated committee for detailed examination before it is debated in the Upper House.

Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, stated, "The government has said that it introduced this legislation to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the workers compensation scheme, and to minimise the premium increases that it expects to arise from COVID-related claims. The government has cited modelling that estimates more than 25,000 extra claims on the workers compensation system will arise from COVID at a cost of \$600 million."

"The committee plans to test these estimates, along with the government's intentions with this Bill. We want to illuminate all the costs and benefits of the legislation, including the likely impact on frontline workers. To do this, we are seeking the input of a broad range of stakeholders to hear their views on the Bill."

Interested organisations are invited to make a submission to the inquiry at [www.bit.ly/workers-compensation-inquiry](http://www.bit.ly/workers-compensation-inquiry). Individual workers and community members are encouraged to answer an online questionnaire seeking their views at [www.bit.ly/workers-compensation-survey](http://www.bit.ly/workers-compensation-survey). The committee will hold a hearing in the new year and report back to Parliament on 21 February 2021.

Further information, including the inquiry terms of reference and the Bill, can be found on the committee's website [here](#).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, on 9230 2393*