



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

2022 REVIEWS OF THE CTP INSURANCE AND LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES FINALISED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 February 2022

Today, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice has released two oversight reports examining the performance two of the State's insurance schemes: the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance scheme and the Lifetime Care and Support scheme. These two schemes were set up to provide support to people injured in motor vehicle accidents.

The first report focuses on the CTP insurance scheme, examining a range of issues raised by stakeholders regarding the operation of the scheme, such as insurer profits, the efficiency of the Personal Injury Commission, and concerns by road user groups. The report also explores whether the Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service (ILARS), operated by the Independent Review Office and currently available to injured workers, should be extended to support people injured in motor accidents.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Chris Rath MLC, stated: 'Pleasingly, the CTP scheme appears to be meeting its objectives. However, as shown by the evidence presented to the committee, complex and considered work is required to balance the objectives of scheme affordability, and the efficient provision of benefits and support to those injured in motor accidents, in order to maximise their recovery.' Mr Rath continued, 'In this regard, the committee makes three recommendations relating to the operation of the CTP scheme, and has expressed its support for two initiatives put forward by the State Insurance Regulatory Authority and the Independent Review Office, each of which are designed to further strengthen the scheme and the experience of claimants within it.'

The second report tabled by the committee considers the Lifetime Care and Support (LTCS) scheme, as well as the CTP Care program, both of which are managed by the Lifetime Care and Support Authority within icare. The LTCS scheme was set up to support those with catastrophic injuries arising from motor vehicle accidents, like brain and spinal cord injuries. The financial sustainability of the LTCS scheme was a key focus in the review, as was and the provision of treatment and care to scheme participants. The CTP Care program commenced in 2022 and provides support for injured persons who do not meet the severe injury test of the LTCS scheme, but require ongoing treatment and care. The expectations, operational readiness and financial position of the CTP Care program were examined during this review.

For this review of the LTCS scheme, one recommendation was made by the committee: that the *Personal Injury Commission Act 2020* be amended to clarify the legislative power of the Independent Review Office to deal with disputes related to the Lifetime Care and Support Authority.

The committee has a legislative responsibility to review these schemes every two years.

The committee's reports, along with the submissions, hearing transcripts and other documents from the reviews, can be accessed on the committee's website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Chris Rath MLC, on 9230 2534.