



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 1

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **WorkCover's progress on recommended anti-bullying reforms impressive, a parliamentary review found**

**11 December 2014**

A parliamentary committee that was previously critical of WorkCover NSW's handling of internal bullying has found the organisation is taking important steps to tackle the issue.

In June 2014, the Upper House committee reported that WorkCover, the state regulator of workplace health and safety, had 'a significant organisational problem with bullying'. It made 12 recommendations to the government to help the organisation move forward and pledged to review the implementation of these recommendations before the end of 2014. The committee commenced the review in September and released its report today.

'Less than six months later, I am tabling a report which tracks progress on the implementation of the recommendations made in the committee's first report and I am pleased to say, progress on these reforms has been impressive,' said Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC, Chairman of the committee.

'The satisfactory implementation of the committee's first two recommendations, that WorkCover publicly apologise to all WorkCover employees, including Mr Wayne Butler, was a critical first step in the organisation's trajectory towards a safer workplace,' Revd Nile said.

Revd Nile observed that the new WorkCover Executive team has shown a greater level of openness about these matters. He also noted the government's commitment to address the issue and was particularly pleased that it had issued a formal response to the committee's recommendations two months earlier than was required.

'While there is still much to be done, we are confident that the significant progress to date on implementing the committee's original recommendations has laid the groundwork for long overdue systemic and cultural change in WorkCover' he said.

A list of the committee's recommendations is attached. The report is on the inquiry website: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc1>. Hard copies are available on request.

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*For further information please contact Committee Chairman, Revd Hon Fred Nile MLC,  
on 9230 2478 or 0418 619 731*