

**Submission
No 243**

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Organisation: Aged Care Association Australia - NSW
Date received: 21/05/2012

AGED CARE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA-NSW



*representing private enterprise, church, charity and community operators of
quality aged care services*

21 May 2012

The Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC
Joint Select Committee on the NSW Workers Compensation
Scheme
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Borsak,

The Aged Care Association Australia-NSW (ACAA-NSW) represents the private, church, charitable and community sectors, and has served the industry for more than seventy years and continues to strive for excellence in aged care in a commercially viable environment.

ACAA-NSW provides advice and support to aged care Approved Providers who manage approximately 25,000 beds and employ around 25,000 staff.

Workers Compensation Reform

Wages and the related workers' compensation costs represent a significant input to the provision of quality care.

As organisations that receive Federal funding, we are acutely aware of the already uncompetitive nature of NSW workers' compensation premiums. This already being the case, an increase in premiums of 28% to 35%¹ would further reduce the resources to provide quality care.

We strongly advocate the proposed changes to NSW workers' compensation legislation as outlined in the Issues Paper. Without these changes we consider the already uncompetitive nature of NSW workers' compensation premiums will continue to deteriorate.

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¹ Estimated based on the Scheme Actuary's 28% increase in NSW workers' compensation premiums being before the decrease of half a percent in the risk free interest rate.

A meaningful reform to assist our members' employees to return to work in a beneficial and sustainable way after injury is, we believe, paramount. To do otherwise would lead to the diversion of financial resources that would be best directed to care outcomes of our residents and patients in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Wurf
Chief Executive Officer
Aged Care Association Australia-NSW