

INQUIRY INTO PERSONAL INJURY COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

Organisation: Sydney Festival
Name: Ms Josephine Ridge
Position: General Manager
Telephone: 8248 6500
Date Received: 14/03/2005

Subject:

Summary

Legislative Council
GENERAL PURPOSE
STANDING COMMITTEE NUMBER 1

14 MAR 2005

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Director
General Purpose Standing Committee Number 1
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Sydney 2000

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14 March 2005

Dear Sir

Re: Parliamentary Inquiry: Personal Injury Compensation legislation

Sydney Festival is an annual arts festival which produces a range of events which take place both inside traditional venues as well as outdoors. The outdoor events tend to be free and large-scale and may have as many as 100,000 people in attendance.

Mainly because of these outdoor events and the public liability insurance they require, Sydney Festival experienced a steep rise in its insurance premiums between the years of 1999 and 2002 when costs rose from \$28,000 to \$145,000 per annum. A further jump occurred in 2003 which saw an additional \$100,000 added to the Festival's bill taking our premium that year to over \$240,000.

By 2004 however, this trend had begun to reverse and in the current financial year we anticipate a final cost of just over \$170,000. Sydney Festival utilises the services of an expert broker who has undoubtedly assisted with this reversal however we believe that we are also seeing the impact of the personal injury compensation legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josephine Ridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Josephine Ridge
General Manager
Telephone: 02 8248 6505