



Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities  
Australia and New Zealand

# ACTU Occupational Health, Safety & Workers' Compensation Conference 2010

Canberra 26 - 27 May

**Greg Tweedly**  
**Chair - HWCA**

# HWCA - Profile



Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities  
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- The Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) is a group comprising the Chief Executives (or their representatives) of the peak bodies responsible for the regulation of workers compensation in Australia and New Zealand.
- This includes Australia's ten workers' compensation authorities (six States, two Territories and two Commonwealth), the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation and most recently joined by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

# HWCA - Vision



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To promote and implement best practice in workers compensation arrangements in Australia and New Zealand in the areas of policy and legislative matters, regulation and scheme administration

# HWCA - Objectives



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- Identify and develop initiatives that will effectively contribute towards the achievement of the HWCA vision within the constraints of and the needs of each jurisdiction
- Promote a better understanding of the features of the various workers' compensation schemes
- Share information on new initiatives or programs
- Coordinate the development and implementation of initiatives of interest or relevance to multiple jurisdictions
- Communicate, when appropriate, the outcomes of HWCA initiatives and programs
- Encourage professional development for workers in the workers compensation 'industry'
- Liaise with other national bodies

# HWCA Guiding Principles



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- Commitment to the agreed measures for improvement in workers' compensation arrangements and injury management
- Sharing information about interventions in respect of priority areas
- Sharing experience / knowledge through information exchange
- Working cooperatively with the Safe Work Australia Council to improve workers compensation arrangements

# HWCA membership



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| Name              | Role   | Representing                                   |
|-------------------|--------|--|
| Greg Tweedly      | Chair  | WorkSafe VIC                                   |
| Robert Gotts      | Member | Office of Ind. Relations, Chief Min. Dept. ACT |
| Paul O'Connor     | Member | Comcare  |
| Robert Thomson    | Member | WorkCover NSW (Mary Hawkins to act)            |
| Dr Jan White      | Member | ACC New Zealand                                |
| Laurene Hull      | Member | NT WorkSafe                                    |
| Elizabeth Woods   | Member | Q-COMP QLD                                     |
| Paul Goldsborough | Member | Workplace Health & Safety QLD                  |
| Julia Davidson    | Member | WorkCover SA (Rob Thomson starts in June)      |
| Michelle Reynolds | Member | WorkCover WA                                   |
| Rod Lethborg      | Member | WorkCover Tas                                  |
| Ian Campbell      | Member | Dept. of Veteran's Affairs                     |
| HWCA Secretariat  |        | WorkSafe Victoria                              |

# HWCA Working / Reference Groups



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- Nationally Consistent Approval Framework for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers
- Bio-Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- HWCA/HCTP Long Term Support
- HWCA/HCTP Inter-Jurisdictional Injury Management Agreement
- Permanent Impairment
- Latent Onset Injury
- Definition of Workers

# HWCA Outcomes



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- Published 'Promoting Excellence: Consistency in Australia's workers compensation'
  - The report aimed to “identify best practice in key aspects of workers compensation arrangements, in order to provide a benchmark to guide the development of greater national consistency in current programmes”.  
(1997)
- Undertaking and publishing the National Return to Work Monitor since 1999 (Campbell Monitor)
- Harmonised administrative arrangements for self insurance including developing a standard set of financial indicators; harmonisation of bank guarantees and security requirements

# HWCA Outcomes



Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities  
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- Publishing the annual comparison of Workers' Compensation arrangements in Australia and New Zealand\*
- Introduced the Nationally Consistent Approval Framework (NCAF) for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers from 1st July 2010
- Supporting the work of the Personal Injury Education Foundation including through sponsorship of an award for Outstanding Contribution of an Individual

\* Now published by SafeWork Australia

# HWCA Going Forward



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- Through the Australian and New Zealand Workers' Compensation Strategy 2009-2012 HWCA will focus on four priority areas:
  - Efficient claims management
  - Best practice, evidence based injury management and return to work initiatives
  - Engagement with third-party service providers
  - Research and identification of emerging trends

# HWCA Going Forward



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- It is envisaged that this Strategy will complement initiatives already underway as part of the National Occupational Health and Safety Strategy 2002 – 2012 and Safe Work Australia's current strategic and operational plans
- HWCA Members undertake over the period of the Strategy to:
  - implement the Strategy
  - work cooperatively on the priorities and objectives identified in the Strategy
  - review progress towards achievement of the Strategy outcomes
  - refine and develop the Strategy in light of progress and achievements
  - work in partnership with stakeholders to achieve the Strategy objectives