

<p style="text-align: center;">ACTU CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 1993 WORKERS' COMPENSATION, INDUSTRY COMMISSION REPORT</p>

- 1.1 Congress notes that the Industry Commission released on August 23, 1993 its Draft Report on Workers Compensation in Australia and is now seeking submissions commenting on that report.
- 1.2 Congress supports the finding by the Commission that significant cost shifting for workplace injuries occurs from employers to workers and the community and supports their view that employers should bear more of the ongoing costs associated with work related injury and disease.
- 1.3 Congress also supports the view that where negligence with regard to workplace safety is manifest and contrary to occupational health and safety regulation, penalties should be imposed which are sufficient to deter poor behaviour, and which are seen by the community as "just".
- 1.4 Congress opposes the proposals put by the Commission which would restrict access by injured workers to compensation, in particular:
 - (i) the abolition of journey claims;
 - (ii) the abolition of recess or free-time claims;
 - (iii) the abolition of all access to common law;
 - (iv) the abolition of make-up pay provisions in awards; and
 - (v) the restriction of claims to cases where there is a significant link between work and the injury/illness.
- 1.5 Congress welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposals and urges affiliates to respond to the Commission's draft report in line with Congress policy.