

Reform of South Australian Workers' Compensation System

August 2014

Following a 15 month consultation process, the South Australian Government will today (7 August 2014) introduce legislation to replace the former WorkCover scheme with a new workers' compensation Act, estimated to save registered businesses in South Australia more than \$180 million per year.

Premier the Hon. Jay Weatherill MP noted that the Return to Work Bill represented the most significant reform to the system in more than 25 years, with better assistance for workers returning to their jobs, a noticeable failure of the former system.

Premier Weatherill and Deputy Premier Rau's press release is available [here](#).

Furthermore, Premier Weatherill emphasised the new system's focus on "better case management", whereby case managers would "meet with worker and employer face-to-face within 48 hours of being notified of an injury that is likely to last longer than two weeks."

Under the new scheme, 94% of injured workers in South Australia would be either no worse off or would see an increase in the benefits they received, compared to the current WorkCover arrangements.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Relations the Hon. John Rau MP explained that "if a worker is assessed as being less than seriously injured they will be intensively supported to return to employment over a two-year timeframe."

In addition to the Return to Work Bill, the Deputy Premier will also be introducing to Parliament the South Australian Employment Tribunal Bill, to "provide quicker access and faster dispute resolutions."