

20 June 2011

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Attention: Richard Grant

Dear Mr Grant,

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE SCHEDULE OF THE FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FURTHER ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2011

Australia Post has considered the contents of the aforementioned Bill. It is envisaged that the issues which concern Australia Post are likely to concern other self insurers.

The area of the Bill of concern is that which requires "payers of compensation" to notify Centrelink of any proposed payment of compensation 14 days prior to payment or other agreed arrangement. Whilst it is understood that providing a notice may reduce the "risk of individuals incurring unnecessary debt to the Commonwealth", it will also significantly delay delivery of a benefit to injured workers.

The Bill effects one of the most critical areas of scheme performance i.e. benefit delivery. Having taken the necessary time to carefully consider and determine liability in regard to an injured worker's claim for compensation, self insurers will need to delay the delivery of workers' compensation benefits up to a maximum of 14 days. Australia Post has striven to maintain and improve its capability to deliver benefits to its injured employees in a timely manner and the SRC Commission has set performance measures to test our compliance in this regard.

Furthermore, the additional administrative activity to notify Centrelink of any proposed payment is likely to significantly impact our resources to deliver an effective workers' compensation system for our employees.

In addition, we are concerned at the lack of time afforded to affected parties to fully consider the impact of this Bill and respond accordingly.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Halloran
Manager Strategy, Regulation and Performance
Injury Management - Enterprise Safety
People and Community
Australia Post