



Suncorp-Metway Ltd
ABN: 66 010831 722

18 Jamison Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: neil.singleton@suncorp.com.au

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Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

via email: eewr.sen@aph.gov.au

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE *OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2009*

Dear Committee Secretary

I refer to the announcement of the Senate Inquiry into the Provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009* and a call for public comment on 30 November 2009.

Suncorp welcomes the opportunity to participate in the public discussion and supports the proposed amendments.

Suncorp is keen to actively work with the Federal Government to enhance current occupational health and safety (OHS) and workers compensation (WC) laws at the Federal level and considers the proposed amendments do provide the further enhancements that are required.

Further, Suncorp supports the current Federal Government policy agenda of pursuing nationally consistent OHS and WC laws.

The current differences in OHS & WC statutes, regulations and codes of practice across the nation mean that workers in different jurisdictions who face identical risks are afforded different levels of legal protection. Further, multiple jurisdictional businesses are faced with inconsistent standards and enforcement which makes compliance complex and costly.

Suncorp supports all positive reform efforts that actively seek to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses through the implementation of nationally consistent OHS & WC laws. The benefit of this approach is likely to see businesses invest any savings into enhancing companywide cultures of preventing injury and illness and unlocking much needed productivity increases.

If you have any questions or wish to seek further clarification of Suncorp's position in relation to the matters discussed above then please feel free to contact me on (07) 3135 3637 or my Stakeholder Management Leader, Mike Thomas on (02) 8121 3115.

Regards

Neil Singleton

**Executive General Manager
Statutory Portfolio & Underwriting Management**