



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



AUSTRALASIAN FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

23 November 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Re: Treatment of injured and ill employees

The Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) is part of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. The Policy and Advocacy Committee of AFOEM has developed policy on the care of employees with work injuries. The document was widely distributed for public comment, and the feedback received has been incorporated.

Whilst the policy document has not formally been launched, it seemed appropriate to provide our policy review to this important Senate Inquiry. The policy document is labelled as *draft* as it has not been formally launched, any further changes are likely to be minor.

For your information, the Faculty website is <http://afoem.racp.edu.au/page/home>. A description of Occupational Physicians from the website is:

The Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine is the professional organisation committed to establishing and maintaining the standard of training and practice of Occupational Medicine in Australasia. Occupational Medicine is a medical specialty where highly-trained specialists focus on the effects of work on health and (conversely) health on work. It understands the full range of workplace and environmental hazards (chemical, physical, biological & psychosocial), associated risks of exposure to such hazards, and how these may cause an adverse impact on biological health, such as injury or illness. It covers all occupational/work groupings, and understands the nature of such work in terms of inherent task requirements, environment, and human ergonomics.

Please make contact if you wish to discuss any aspect of the submitted policy with our Chair of Policy and Advocacy Committee, Dr Mary Wyatt.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mills', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dr Ross Mills

President, AFOEM