



The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

House of Representatives
Standing Committee
on Employment and
Workplace Relations

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MEDIA RELEASE

Committee looks at workers' compensation schemes

The House Employment and Workplace Relations Committee is inquiring into Australian workers' compensation schemes, with special regard to fraud, safety records, claims profiles and rehabilitation programs.

Committee Chair, Mrs De-Anne Kelly MP, says the area of workers' compensation is highly complex with a range of schemes in operation across Australia.

"Fraud will arise wherever insurance is provided, and workers' compensation is no different", Mrs Kelly said. "We want to look at the incidence and costs of fraudulent claims and conduct by employees and employers, and the structural factors that may encourage fraudulent behaviour.

"The Committee also wants to know how different schemes detect fraudulent claims, and what is done to detect employers who are not paying correct premiums or who are otherwise not complying with their obligations. These are practices which should be eliminated.

"Occupational safety is important to all of us, and we need to look at the problem as a whole. What are the factors that lead to good or poor safety records and claims profiles from industry to industry? We also want to know about the suitability, effectiveness and benefits of rehabilitation programs"

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions by 8 August 2002. Further details on the inquiry, including advice on making submissions to parliamentary committees, can be found on the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewr>

For media comment: Mrs De-Anne Kelly MP (07) 4957 6411

Further information on the inquiry is available
from the Committee Secretariat