



22 November 2002

Ms Cheryl Scarlett  
Inquiry Secretary  
Standing Committee on Employment and Workplace Relations  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Scarlett

### **Inquiry into Aspects of Workers' Compensation**

Further to the written submission dated August 2002 the CPSU provides the attached documents for consideration of the Committee.

The first two documents are relevant to the section 5.2 of the CPSU submission. The documents are evidence of the benefits resulting from union involvement under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1992. The first document is an occupational health and safety agreement between the CPSU and the Australian Tax Office which establishes an inclusive frameworks providing benefits for all staff. The second document, prepared by the Australian Tax Office as part of a nomination for an occupational health and safety award, is evidence that the current system is sufficiently well regarded by ATO management that they wish to have the system recognised through an award system.

The third document highlights a supplementary issue to the CPSU submission which relates to the obligations that the Commonwealth has as an employer under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act)*. The document is evidence that the Commonwealth has failed, in a number of cases, to regularly report wage increases for some of their incapacitated employees. The impact of this failure on workers' compensation premiums is difficult to determine, as is the motives behind such a failure. It is clear, however, that the former employees affected are considerably distressed and disadvantaged by such failures. While it is heartening that Comcare acts quickly to make the required adjustments it is imperative that the situation be rectified quickly.

We will be happy to answer any questions on these documents when we appear before the Committee on Tuesday 26 November 2002.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Gillespie  
Assistant National Secretary