

# Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education  
Legislation Committee

## **Inquiry into the provisions of the OHS and SRC Legislation Amendment Bill 2005**

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Mr John Carter  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter,

**RE: OHS and SRC Legislation Amendment Bill 2005**

ACCI is aware that submissions for this inquiry were due on 24 March 2006. Unfortunately, it has not been possible for ACCI to prepare a detailed submission within the timeframe required. ACCI nonetheless wishes to assist the Committee by providing a brief written statement in support of the Bill.

Some employers, particularly larger, national employers, derive legitimate benefits from self-insuring for workers' compensation purposes. Under certain conditions, these self-insurers can apply to be licensed under the Commonwealth *SRC Act* rather than being required to participate in and comply with each separate State/Territory workers' compensation scheme. Licensees able to access such arrangements therefore avoid the administrative and compliance complexities that otherwise arise from participation in several workers' compensation systems.

At present, licensees nevertheless remain covered by the State and Territory OHS legislative regimes in operation where they operate, rather than one national system of OHS regulation. They are therefore in a different position to Australian Government business entities with whom they may be in competition.

The effect of the amendments will be to provide access for private sector licensees to the *OHS (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*. ACCI supports this amendment.

Where a private sector business has secured a license under a self-insurance arrangement, it is appropriate that they are also in a position to gain access to the accompanying system of national OHS regulation as provided for by the Commonwealth Act.

The amendment also means that the design of the Commonwealth OHS scheme and its suitability for private sector employers must also be considered. We therefore welcome the review of the *OHS (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991* currently being undertaken by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

ACCI has developed an industry Blueprint for improving occupational health and safety performance and improving the quality of OHS regulation in Australia. We commend the Blueprint to the Committee for consideration in the context of the current Bill and in your consideration more broadly of policies to reform and improve OHS regulation. Copies of the Blueprint are attached and it can be accessed electronically at:

<http://www.acci.asn.au/OHSBlueprintMain.htm> .

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Peter Anderson  
Director – Workplace Relations  
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