

Nicholas
Covey

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal under consideration by the above committee for Comcare workers compensation changes.

I am also disappointed with the timing of the consultation process to coincide with what has traditionally been the Christmas break meaning fewer opportunities for the community to be enlightened on this proposal.

Your proposal as I understand it would remove Comcare's workers compensation coverage for people who are injured on an ordinary journey to or from work or during a recess. The changes will mainly affect people around Australia who work for the Commonwealth or ACT governments and their agencies. I must say that I am a Commonwealth public servant who cycles to work daily and have sought considerable comfort in the knowledge that I may receive some assistance if I were to be injured travelling to the workplace.

I am particularly concerned that cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users will no longer be covered by Comcare and could be left to fend for themselves in what appears to be cost-shifting from the federal government to the community.

I believe the changes will discourage people from riding to work at a time of record levels of physical inactivity, overweight and obesity, petrol prices, road congestion and global warming, all of which can be helped to some extent by increasing levels of cycling and walking. It is also inconsistent with the current government policies and programs which are aimed at countering those problems, eg promoting physical activity, ride to work, greenhouse gas reduction.

I ask that the current provisions are not changed. Changes will only further discourage cycling which is widely recognised as a healthy and greenhouse friendly mode of transport. This could mean more cars on the road, more pollution and more congestion and higher health costs for the community.

Regards

Nicholas Covey