



# Pedal Power ACT Inc.

19 January 2007

Mr John Carter  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra

email: [ect.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ect.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Carter

## **Inquiry into the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

Pedal Power ACT Inc. is a non-profit community recreational cycling organisation that aims to get more Canberrans cycling more often, for a better community. Just on 1,700 people in the Canberra Region belong to Pedal Power. Many more come on our rides.

Pedal Power is a member of the Bicycle Federation of Australia and supports the submission the BFA has made to the Committee. I would like to add some comments from a local perspective.

As employees of Commonwealth departments and agencies form a significant proportion of the ACT population, the proposed changes to the workers compensation laws will have an adverse effect on a large number of people who ride bikes to work in Canberra including a large number of our members.

Over the past 6 years, Pedal Power has run a Ride to Work program to encourage more Canberrans to ride to work more often. Last October we helped 40 ACT workplaces to participate in National Ride to Work Day. About 35 workplaces ran breakfasts on the day.

Our Ride to Work riders enjoy their healthy daily commute, arriving invigorated and ready for work. It is well known that fit people are better workers and citizens and this brings tangible benefits to employers and to the government more generally in the form of reduced expenditure on hospitals, doctors and medicines. These benefits are put in jeopardy by the proposed changes to Comcare.

On behalf of our members, and all other Commonwealth employees who ride to and from work, who will be adversely directly affected by the proposed changes I ask the Committee to recommend that journey and recess benefits be retained in the Comcare scheme. I support the BFA's suggestion to help contain costs.

Pedal Power would like to present its views at a public hearing of the Committee. I hope a hearing can be arranged in Canberra.

Yours sincerely

John Widdup  
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