



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 549021/1

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20 DEC 2012

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November 2012 enclosing petition number 1983-12 regarding an inquiry into the operation of Queensland's workers' compensation scheme.

The inquiry is a statutory requirement of section 584A of the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* (the Act), inserted into the Act in 2011, in response to the increasing cost of claims and the rising number of common law claims resulting in premium income not keeping pace with net claims growth.

The Act requires me as Minister to ensure a review of the operation of the workers' compensation scheme is completed at least once in every five year period and to table a report about the outcome of the first review in the Legislative Assembly by no later than 30 June 2013.

To ensure the independence of the review, on 7 June 2012, the Legislative Assembly referred responsibility for the inaugural review to the Parliament's Finance and Administration Committee (the Committee). This all-party Committee is independent from the executive arm of government and ensures the community a voice in how the scheme operates in Queensland.

Contrary to the politically motivated comments of the principal petitioner, this Government is committed to protecting the interests of all Queenslanders.

Our fiscal repair task and strategy to get Queensland back on track and back into the black is a result of the poor financial legacy of the previous Labor Government.

The once in a generation budget was a necessary measure to enable the future growth of the public service and get value for money for Queensland's hard working taxpayers.

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The Committee has consulted widely with key stakeholders and the community generally. Public submissions were invited from June to September 2012. To date, 198 written submissions have been received. The Committee also conducted five sessions of public hearings in Brisbane (three sessions), Mackay (one session) and Cairns (one session).

The Committee will carefully consider the views of all stakeholders and make its report by 28 February 2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the petition.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice