



Workers Compensation

Policy Statement

The present Workers Compensation laws are discriminatory. The injured worker is presently assessed by an industry appointed panel.

Responsibility for a safe working environment lies equally with the employer and the employee.

Our model provides that both parties in any claim will work together to arrive at a fair outcome to support the injured person.

Unforeseen occasional accidents are bound to happen. Whatever the reason, an appropriate safety net must be provided to allow the unfortunate victim a dignified future.

We will establish a Fidelity Fund, under the auspices of Medicare, which will underwrite compensation payouts.

Policy

Accident victims must be afforded a living wage.

We intend to ensure that payments of 100% of the applicable award for a standard full week, relevant to the job and position held at the time of the accident, are provided until retirement age for victims with total disability.

Standard age pension will then take over, with the proviso that the Fidelity Fund will be responsible for medical expenses connected to the original accident injuries.

Pro-rata compensation will also be provided to accident victims with lesser disabilities to make up for earning shortfalls.

Retraining, if necessary and/or where possible, will be the responsibility of the Fidelity Fund.

Government assistance to find employment will integrate accident victims back into the workforce. Workplace reforms, Insurance premiums and appropriate compensation payouts are set by government supervised tribunals with equal representation from industry bodies, medical panels and union organisations.

No lump-sum payouts but a regular income will ensure genuine claims and a secure future. We will simplify Court access, provide Legal Aid and ensure speedy settlements.

Appointed arbitrators will settle unresolved disputes after a second Court case.

Background Briefing

Accident victims have to live with injuries sustained whether it was caused by their own lapse of concentration or their employer's negligence and deserve community support.

Negligent employers will be taken to task by the appropriate government department, their industry body and ultimately the courts.

Employees will also be prosecuted if they are found to have contributed to negligent or malicious practises causing accidents involving other persons.

To stop lump-sum payouts to an unfortunate accident victim will reduce fraudulent claims and also the stigma of being a malingerer.

It will also ensure that funds are available at all times as it prevents money being spent on inappropriate projects and or being exhausted at an early stage.

This will also ease the burden on the Fidelity Fund (and ultimately the tax-payer), as in the past, recipients of lump-sum payments have often been less than capable in managing their finances and have fallen back onto the Welfare System.

The temptation of coercing the accident victim into accepting a less than adequate settlement is also removed.

Biased panels or tribunals have created hardship for accident victims and their families in the past.
We must never allow this to happen again.