

## It's *not* about public liability

20 September 2006

Business groups in New South Wales have nothing to fear from the legal profession's campaign to bring fairness and consistency to the state's personal injury compensation laws.

Responding to the launch of 'A Fair Go for Injured People', the CEO of Australian Business Limited's State Chamber, Kevin MacDonald, issued a media release telling the state's lawyers to "back off" on their law reform campaign.

Mr MacDonald raised the spectre of rising public liability insurance premiums for NSW businesses.

Unfortunately, Mr MacDonald has been poorly briefed about the campaign and is quite mistaken about its aims.

A 'Fair Go for Injured People' is not intended to roll back the changes to public liability contained in the Civil Liability Act. Rather, the purpose is to bring workers compensation and motor accidents schemes in line with the civil liability law.

In a speech at the public launch of the campaign, the president of the New South Wales Bar Association, Michael Slattery QC gave a clear and succinct message, which will be repeated in the coming months.

"The Civil Liability Act reforms introduced in 2003 are actually a reasonably fair standard and the motor accident and workers' compensation schemes should be brought in line with that", he said.

"That's exactly what a bipartisan report of the Legislative Council said in December last year. Members from both parties voted for consistency across all personal injury compensation laws in New South Wales and these anomalies should be removed", he said.

"I am quite happy to meet with members of Australian Business Limited to allay their concerns", said Mr Slattery.

Contact Alastair McConnachie M: 0420 314 462, Kate Rogers M: 0413 440 699 or [media@faircompensation.com.au](mailto:media@faircompensation.com.au)

## A Fair Go For Injured People



The New South Wales Bar Association



The Law Society  
of New South Wales



Law Council  
OF AUSTRALIA



Lawyers  
for the People

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