

Greenslip premiums accelerate, but accident victims lose out

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Insurers continue to rake in green slip premium payments at the expense of injured motor accident victims, according to the Motor Accidents Authority's latest figures.

The 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Motor Accidents Authority, released last Friday, shows that insurers have received a staggering \$10 billion in premiums under the motor accidents scheme, yet have paid out less than \$2.7 billion to injured people.

"These figures again prove the unfairness of the state government's personal injury laws" said Michael Slattery QC, President of the New South Wales Bar Association.

"Last year's motor accidents scheme figures had insurers paying out less than \$2 billion out of \$8 billion received in green slip premiums. Now, one year on, insurers have taken over one billion dollars more after claim payouts are factored in.

Four peak legal organisations - the Law Society of NSW, the NSW Bar Association, Law Council of Australia and Australian Lawyers Alliance - are running a campaign 'A Fair Go For Injured People' designed to restore fairness and consistency to personal injury compensation laws in NSW.

The government's own report also confirms that their motor accidents changes have denied 91% of people injured in motor accidents access to fair compensation.

"Any law which stops more than nine out of ten injured people from recovering proper compensation is by definition unfair and unsupportable. The report is further proof that the New South Wales Government's changes to personal injury laws have gone too far" Mr Slattery said.

"The widening gap between premiums collected and claims paid out shows that the only people losing out from the green slip scheme are those that the scheme should protect – the injured.

"Our campaign is about the injured, and restoring fairness and consistency to the system. Under the current laws, the community continues to pay its insurance premiums on green slips, only to see victims receive little or nothing for their injuries.

"Neither the government nor the opposition have made any moves to wind back the excesses of the motor accidents system. "Until the major parties get serious about this issue, injured people in NSW will continue to miss out" Mr Slattery said.

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A Fair Go For Injured People



The New South Wales Bar Association



The Law Society
of New South Wales



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

