

Adding insult to injury

3 October 2006

The president of the NSW Bar Association, Mr Michael Slattery QC, will visit Wollongong tomorrow (Wednesday, 4 October) to meet with Mr Arthur Rorris from the South Coast Labor Council to discuss the need to restore fairness and consistency to the state's workers' compensation system.

"John Della Bosca's recent announcement to reform the workers' compensation system is a token response and an insult to the 95 per cent of injured workers who cannot access compensation for their pain and suffering," said Mr Slattery.

Four peak legal organisations – the Law Society of NSW, the NSW Bar Association, Law Council of Australia and Australian Lawyers' Alliance - have launched a campaign 'A Fair Go For Injured People' calling for uniformity across all personal injury schemes.

"The profitability of the workers' compensation scheme shows that the time is ripe to return some of the profit that insurers are pocketing to the injured.

"The current system treats people like robots using harsh and arbitrary threshold tests to determine if a person is eligible for compensation.

"The New South Wales Government continues to save around \$1 billion per year by denying benefits to injured workers.

"Clearly, there is enough surplus in the scheme to relax the inhumane threshold tests and to restore equity and fairness to the system," said Mr Slattery.

Notes to Editors: Mr Michael Slattery and Arthur Rorris will be available for interviews on Wednesday, 4 October 2006, 10:20am at the 'rotunda' outside Hargrave Chambers, Crown Street, Wollongong.

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A Fair Go For Injured People



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