

More misinformation from the Minister for Commerce

6 February

John Della Bosca has made more false and misleading claims about motor accidents and workers compensation schemes in New South Wales, according to Law Society Senior Vice President Hugh Macken.

“The minister is clearly unsettled by the growing response among the people of New South Wales to the ‘Fair Go For Injured People’ campaign, which is intensifying in the lead up to the March state election”, said Mr Macken.

Misconception No. 1

Mr Della Bosca’s claims that average green slips would rise by \$100 and workers’ compensation premiums would double if reforms were made to the compensation system.

The facts

1. **Income from green slip payments has exceeded \$10 billion and only \$2.7 billion has been paid to the injured victims of motor vehicle accidents.**
2. **The Government’s own workers compensation scheme rakes in over \$1 billion a year in excess of payments to injured workers.**

“Both schemes are deriving income from premiums and investments which vastly exceed the compensation payments to the injured.

“There is enough money in both schemes to transfer and redress the imbalance and increase payments to the injured.

“The Minister is supporting a culture of profiteering from the insurers at the expense of the injured,” said Mr Macken.

“Restoring fairness and consistency to the system can be implemented over time, through a staged and monitored process to ensure that there is no increase in workers compensation and green slip premiums.

A Fair Go For Injured People



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Misconception No. 2

Mr Della Bosca claims that impairment benefits have increased for injured workers.

The facts

1. Since 1999, benefits for injured workers have not kept pace with inflation and in real terms, have in fact decreased.
2. Compensation for pain and suffering is no longer available to over 90% of people injured in work accidents.

“The plight of seriously injured workers is not adequately dealt with by the workers compensation system.

“The scheme does not address the disentanglement for future treatment and care for workers who are seriously injured through the negligence of their employer,” said Mr Macken.

Misconception No. 3

Mr Della Bosca claims that payments to seriously injured people in motor vehicle accidents have increased by 74%.

The facts

1. Compensation for pain and suffering is no longer available to over 90% of people injured in motor vehicle accidents.
2. The remaining 10% are receiving less in compensation than they previously would have due to caps on compensation payments.

“The campaign *“A Fair Go For Injured People”* today entered its second phase to intensify efforts to redress the imbalance in the state’s compensation laws. The rights of the

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