

# Fair Compensation campaign raises the pressure in key marginal seats

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Voters in eight key electorates across the state will be given a chance to voice their concern over harsh accident compensation laws in New South Wales.

More than 300,000 households will start to receive from today a reply-paid letter addressed to their local member of parliament, asking where they stand on this important issue.

The direct mail out, titled *What if it happened to you?* will target eight key seats: Newcastle, Terrigal, Tweed, Goulburn, Balmain, Penrith, Kiama and the South Coast.

The New South Wales Bar Association, the Law Society of New South Wales, the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Lawyers Alliance, have launched 'A Fair Go For Injured People' – a public awareness campaign highlighting the often devastating effect these laws have had on injured people.

Campaign spokesman and President of the NSW Bar Association Mr Michael Slattery QC said injured victims were being punished twice: firstly by the injuries sustained through no fault of their own; and second by the system that has taken away their rights to fair compensation.

"In recent years, drastic changes to NSW laws have made it very difficult for people injured in workplace and motor accidents to get fair compensation. The system is too complex, too inconsistent, there are too many barriers on payouts and too few choices," Mr Slattery said

"We are calling on the people of NSW, before they cast their vote on 24 March, to ask their local member where they stand on this important issue.

"The decision to promote a letter-writing campaign follows mounting evidence the pendulum has swung too far. Changes to the injury compensation system since 1999 have made it grossly unfair to victims. A statewide TV, radio and print advertising campaign is also being run to increase the public's awareness of this important issue in the lead up to the March State election.

"It's time to address the plight of the injured who cannot access proper compensation and are fighting a system which is unfair, inconsistent, and far too bureaucratic," Mr Slattery concluded.

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## A Fair Go For Injured People



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