

Not good enough Della Bosca

28 September 2006

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.

The NSW Bar Association President Mr Michael Slattery QC said the profitability of both workers compensation and the motor accidents schemes indicated that it was now time to relax the harsh and arbitrary thresholds that determine whether a person's injury is severe enough to warrant compensation.

"The government is saving around \$1 billion per year by denying benefits to injured workers. The release of this new data proves there is enough surplus in the scheme to provide proper compensation to the 95 per cent of injured people who have been excluded since the changes were made to system.

"Harsh tests were imposed making it impossible for workers injured through no fault of their own to meet arbitrary requirements.

"Under the current system a worker's injuries need to meet the 15 per cent person impairment threshold before they can qualify for any compensation. This brutal assessment basically means a worker has to be catastrophically injured before they are entitled to any payment for their injuries," said Mr Slattery QC.

Law Society Junior Vice President Mr Hugh Macken said that the profitability of the workers compensation scheme showed the time was ripe to restore equity and fairness to the system.

"We need to change the law in NSW to ensure people injured at work or in motor vehicle accidents are fairly compensated and that proper compensation is paid out based on the severity of the injury and not on the circumstance where the injury occurred," Mr Macken

Contact Alastair McConnachie M: 0420 314 462, Kate Rogers M: 0413 440 699 or 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

Visit www.faircompensation.com.au or call 1800 357 596