

The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

28 February 2025

Mr Chris White Chief Executive Officer WorkCover WA 2 Benbrook Place SHENTON PARK WA 6008

By email: shelley.curtis@workcover.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr White

MEETING TO DISCUSS THE WORKERS COMPENSATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT ACT 2023

I write to you in relation to ongoing issues that our members have brought to our attention about significant delays with the registration of settlement documents at Workcover WA.

Prior to 1 July 2024, approval of settlement documentation by Workcover WA would take approximately two to three weeks. Since the commencement of the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023 (the Act) this process takes many weeks and in some cases, months.

The Law Society is concerned that these delays in settlement approval are causing significant hardship for workers who are experiencing long periods without any income. Unfortunately, despite assurances given by WorkCover WA to our representatives, the time delays are not improving.

The recent private tax ruling that states that the income compensation component of a workers compensation settlement is taxable, is also a matter of concern.

The Law Society has a growing number of concerns with the functioning of the Act and considers that a full review of the Act and the regulations supported by a robust consultation process is required.

The Law Society requests a meeting to discuss the above at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Ms Sue Langmair, Personal Assistant to the CEO and President at slangmair@lawsocietywa.asn.au or telephone 9324 8605 to discuss your available dates.

Yours sincerely

Gary Mack **President**