



WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

E-Bulletin No. 18

March 2005

President's Welcome

Welcome to E-Bulletin No. 18 of the Workers Compensation Commission.

This E-Bulletin outlines:

- Amendments to Practice Direction No 2: Adjournment of Commission Proceedings
- Amendments to the Wages Schedule
- Interpreter Services policy
- Annual Review 2004

Justice Terry Sheahan
President
March 2005

Amendment - Practice Direction No 2: Adjournment of Commission Proceedings

[Practice Direction No. 2:](#) Adjournment of Commission Proceedings has been amended to provide for the views of both parties to be obtained prior to the consideration of an application for adjournment being made to the Commission in relation to any proceedings of the Commission.

The amendment provides that:

- A party proposing to lodge an application for adjournment must notify the other party/ies to the dispute of the request, and obtain in writing the views of the other party/ies prior to lodging the application with the Commission.
- If an application for adjournment is lodged without the written views of the other party/ies attached, it will not be considered unless the other party has failed to respond, and this is indicated in the application for adjournment.

The amended Practice Direction is effective on and from 15 March 2005.

Amendment - Wages Schedule

Amendments to the Wages Schedule (Form 18) have been made to enhance the utility of this form for parties in relation to weekly benefits disputes before the Commission.

The amended wages schedule is available on the website via the following link:
http://www.wcc.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/forms/Form_18_Wages_Schedule.doc

The Wages Schedule has been added to the supporting documentation required to be filed by the Applicant with the Application to Resolve a Dispute in weekly benefits claims. The supporting documents and information required when filing an Application to Resolve a Dispute (Form 2) is available on the website via the following link: http://www.wcc.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/forms/Form_2_support_docs.pdf

The Wages Schedule should similarly be filed by the Respondent in the Reply to an Application to Resolve a Dispute in the case of a disputed weekly benefits claim. This is outlined in the Guide to Completing Form 2A, available via the following link: http://www.wcc.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/forms/Form_2A_guide_to_completion.pdf

If a Wages Schedule has not been filed by the parties in the Application or Reply, and a matter must proceed to a conciliation/arbitration conference, the Arbitrator may direct that a Wages Schedule be filed by the parties prior to the date of the conciliation/arbitration proceeding.

Interpreter Services Policy

The Commission recognises that providing interpreters when needed is important to ensure access to our dispute resolution service.

The [Provision of Interpreter Services - Service Charter](#) outlines: the Commission's expectations of parties, legal representatives and agents where parties or witnesses need an interpreter; and the interpreters the Commission arranges through our service providers. It includes our commitment to arrange, book and pay for interpreters required for use in Commission proceedings, and our expectation that the party, legal representative or agent will inform the commission when a party or witness needs an interpreter.

Annual Review 2004

The Annual Review of the Commission's performance for 2004 is available on the website via the following link: [Annual Review 2004](#)

A brief summary of the Commission's operations during 2004 follows:

- 13,142 applications to resolve disputes were registered, with a number of new disputes stabilizing at around 3,300 per quarter
- 11,741 were resolved with 26% settled by agreement between the parties, 15% determined by an Arbitrator and 27% discontinued by the applicant
- 3,649 Medical Assessment Certificates were issued by Approved Medical Specialists
- 70% of disputes were resolved within 26 weeks and 85% within 39 weeks
- 71% of workers, 64% of employers, and 94% of self-insurers rated the service provided by the Commission as adequate, good or very good in an independent customer survey

Contact the Commission

For information, assistance or a request for dispute resolution, please contact the Workers Compensation Commission between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday:

By telephone:	1300 368 040
TTY (for people with hearing impairments):	(02) 9261 3334
By facsimile:	(02) 1300 368 018
In person at:	The Registry, Level 19, 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Postal Address:	PO Box 594, Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Document Exchange:	DX 11524, Sydney Downtown
Email:	registry@wcc.nsw.gov.au
Further information and forms are available at:	www.wcc.nsw.gov.au