



WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

E-Bulletin No. 19

June 2005

President's Welcome

Welcome to E-Bulletin No. 19 of the Workers Compensation Commission.

This E-Bulletin outlines:

- New resource to help workers in resolution process
- Consent Order Template
- Reminder to parties regarding teleconference scheduling arrangements
- Reminder re use of the Commission's photocopying facilities

Justice Terry Sheahan
President
June 2005

New Resource to Help Workers in Resolution Process

The Workers Compensation Commission has developed a DVD/video to help injured workers gain a better understanding of the workers compensation dispute process. The free DVD/video is designed for injured workers who are considering taking their workers compensation dispute to the Commission.

The DVD/video will help injured workers understand the workers compensation dispute resolution process, and what they can expect when dealing with the Commission, so that they can participate in the dispute resolution process with confidence. The DVD/Video has been developed following research that showed injured workers would benefit from being better informed on the way the Commission operates, and the role they can play in the resolution process.

All injured workers who lodge a workers compensation dispute with the Commission will be informed about the DVD/Video in the 'Notice of Commencement of Proceedings' letter. Workers are encouraged to view the video prior to their teleconference.

According to the Workers Compensation Commission's President, Justice Terry Sheahan, the video will give injured workers the confidence to actively participate in the resolution of their workers compensation disputes.

We encourage injured workers to try and resolve compensation disputes with their employers in the first instance. However, for those who choose to go to the Commission, this resource will be an invaluable reference guide to help them gain a better understanding of the Commission's resolution process.

The DVD/Video is available in 12 languages including English, Arabic, Cantonese, Croatian, Mandarin, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese. There is also a corresponding brochure in the 12 languages. The video and brochures can be either viewed online at www.wcc.nsw.gov.au or ordered by calling the Commission on 1300 368 040.

Consent Order Template

Where the parties, or some of the parties, to proceedings in respect of a dispute agree as to the terms of an order to be made determining the dispute as between those parties, and it is an order that the Commission otherwise has the power to make, the Commission may determine the dispute as between those parties by making that order (Rule 75).

Consent orders may be drafted by the parties to the agreement and lodged with the Commission for approval. Consent orders can only be lodged where there is a current dispute before the Commission.

The Commission has prepared a [consent orders form](#) for use by parties. The Consent Order must be signed by each party agreeing to the order, or their legal representative or agent, and dated.

A [guide to completing consent orders](#) which provides information on completing and lodging consent orders with the Commission is also available on our website.

Parties should note that the Commission will not approve consent orders for lump sum compensation under sections 66 and 67 in the absence of an assessment by an Approved Medical Specialist appointed by the Registrar. Also, orders or notations outside the scope of the workers compensation legislation will not be approved (for example, the inclusion of a notation that a worker agrees to resign from the employer's employment).

Teleconference Scheduling Arrangements

Parties are reminded when lodging dispute applications that the Commission has a fixed scheduling procedure. Effectively, this means if a party lodges more than one application on a given date, a teleconference will be scheduled for each of those matters on the same date. When lodging multiple applications, parties should ensure they are available for teleconference generally 68 days from the lodgment date of the application/s.

Use of the Commission's photocopying facilities

Solicitors and agents are reminded of Commission Rule 59(b) requiring the Commission to provide photocopying facilities in respect only of material produced under Direction, and Commission E-Bulletins Nos. 6 (February 2003) and 14 (June 2004) regarding use of copying facilities for materials produced pursuant to Direction only.

Use of the photocopying facilities for other purposes is not permitted.

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