

WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

E-Bulletin No. 25

17 August 2007

President's Welcome

Welcome to E-Bulletin No.25 of the Workers Compensation Commission.

This bulletin outlines:

- Forms Review
- Changes to timing of teleconferences and conciliation / arbitrations
- Use of the Workers Compensation Commission Conference Rooms
- New Registrar
- Farewell to Justice Terry Sheahan

Gary Byron
Acting President

Forms Review

The Commission has commenced a review of all its current Forms and input is being sought from all stakeholders. Comments are invited by Friday 7 September 2007 and should be forwarded to #wccformsreview07@wcc.nsw.gov.au

We anticipate that changes to our existing forms will be implemented by 1 November 2007.

Changes to timing of Teleconferences and Conciliation / Arbitrations

The Commission is implementing standard times for Teleconferences and Conciliations / Arbitrations commencing on the 2nd October 2007.

The commencement times are fixed as follows:

Teleconference (Duration 2 hours): **9.00am, 11.00am, 2.00pm**

Con/Arb Hearings (Duration 3 hours): **10.00am, 2.00pm**

Commencement times will not be varied.

The policy change is in response to feedback from the Legal Profession User Group and reflects general working hours of 9am to 5pm, avoiding the 1-2pm lunch break.

Use of Workers Compensation Commission Conference Rooms

A reminder that use of the Workers Compensation Commission Conference Rooms is limited for conferences set down by the Commission. The rooms are not to be used for private business or client meetings.

The conference, meeting and hearing rooms at the Workers Compensation Commission are not available for meetings with clients, other than for those who have a matter before the Commission constituted by an Arbitrator or a Presidential member, on a particular day. It is entirely unfair and disruptive that lawyers and clients having business in the Commission on any day should be displaced by others who arrange meetings that are not connected with a matter listed in the Commission on that day.

This undesirable practice has caused difficulties for Commission staff, lawyers and parties involved in proceedings on the day. Your co-operation and consideration in this matter would be appreciated.

New Registrar

The Governor-in-Council has approved the appointment of SIAN LEATHEM as the new Registrar of the Commission. Sian will take up her new position on Monday 20th August. Sian was formerly the Assistant Registrar of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Farewell to Justice Terry Sheahan

The Hon Justice Terry Sheahan, President of the Commission, commenced leave on 10 August 2007 and will return to his substantive position as a Judge of the Land and Environment Court later this year. No announcement has yet been made as to his successor at the Commission.

Justice Sheahan has played a prominent role in workers compensation reform in NSW and in the establishment of the Commission, along with its primary emphasis on alternative dispute resolution.

Our good wishes to him.

Contact the Commission

For information or assistance please contact the Workers Compensation Commission between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday

Telephone: 1300 368 040

TTY (for people with hearing impairments): (02) 9261 3334

Facsimile: 1300 368 018

In person at: The Registry, Level 19, 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Postal Address: PO Box 594, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 *or*

Document Exchange: DX11524, Sydney Downtown

Electronic lodgment: registry@wcc.nsw.gov.au

Further information and forms are available at: www.wcc.nsw.gov.au