



## WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**E-Bulletin No. 29**

**January 2009**

### **President's Welcome**

Welcome to E-Bulletin No. 29 of the Workers Compensation Commission.

This bulletin outlines:

- Contact details for User Group members
- Availability of official transcripts
- Change in Timeframes for Delivery of Written Decisions
- Voice Recording Software Rollout
- Regional Location and Venue Review

### **Contact details for User Group Members**

The Workers Compensation Commission's User Group is chaired by the President and includes the two full time Deputy Presidents, the Registrar, two Deputy Registrars and representatives from the NSW Bar Association, the Law Society and the WorkCover Authority.

The group meets quarterly and is a forum for discussion and feedback on operational and procedural issues to ensure the Commission's practices and procedures are working efficiently and meeting stakeholder expectations.

Contact details for the legal profession representatives on the User Group are provided below:

Steve Harris, Moray & Agnew	<a href="mailto:sharris@moray.com.au">sharris@moray.com.au</a>
Howard Harrison, Carroll & O'Dea	<a href="mailto:hharrison@codea.com.au">hharrison@codea.com.au</a>
Brian Moroney, Moroney Lawyers	<a href="mailto:brian.moroney@moroney.com.au">brian.moroney@moroney.com.au</a>
Roshana May, Slater & Gordon	<a href="mailto:rmay@slatertgordon.com.au">rmay@slatertgordon.com.au</a>
David Jones, JonesFatches	<a href="mailto:djones@fjlawyers.com.au">djones@fjlawyers.com.au</a>
Greg Beauchamp, Wentworth Chambers	<a href="mailto:gbbeauchamp@hotmail.com">gbbeauchamp@hotmail.com</a>

Greg Beauchamp is the nominated representative of the Bar Association.

## **Availability of Official Transcripts**

Practitioners are reminded that the Commission provides official transcripts to the parties when a matter proceeds to Presidential Appeal. Practitioners do not need to obtain their own version of the transcript. For arbitrations that have not been the subject of a Presidential Appeal, the Commission will provide an audio recording of proceedings upon request.

## **Change in Timeframes for Delivery of Written Decisions**

The President and the Registrar have agreed to trial an extension of the timeframe for the completion of written Arbitral decisions from 14 to 21 days after the hearing. It is expected that this additional time will assist in the production of quality decisions which, in turn, will achieve a reduction in arbitral appeal and revocation rates, without experiencing a significant impact on timeliness.

The change in time frame will apply to all arbitrations conducted after 1 January 2009 and will be the subject of evaluation in mid-2009.

## **Voice Recording Software Rollout Level 21**

The Commission has recently concluded a successful three-month trial of new voice-recording equipment on Level 21 of the Oxford St, Darlinghurst premises. Commencing in late January 2009, there will be a progressive roll out of the new technology to the remaining hearing and conference rooms on level 21.

## **Regional Location and Venue Review**

Feedback received through the 2008 Client Survey and from the Commission's User Group has prompted the Commission to consider ways in which regional service provision could be better coordinated and more efficiently delivered. The Commission's current approach to regional service provision is contained in the *Conciliation Conference and Arbitration Venue Policy and Access and Equity Charter*. The venue policy currently includes 48 approved regional locations and a list of approved venues within each regional location. The Commission is in the process of reviewing these approved regional locations and associated venues including consolidating and reducing the number of approved locations, as well as ensuring adequate facilities at approved venues.

The Commission invites your input and requests any suggestions be forwarded to the [ProfessionalStandardsUnit@wcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ProfessionalStandardsUnit@wcc.nsw.gov.au)