



Law Council  
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Media Release

## Tasmanian Workers Miss Out on Access to Fair Compensation

Tasmanians injured at work are being denied the compensation they deserve as the result of unrealistic and unfair limitations introduced in 2001 by the State Government, the Law Council said today.

Law Council President John North said, "Unrealistic and unfair thresholds imposed on workers' compensation have made it extremely difficult for many Tasmanians injured in the course of their employment to claim damages."

Tasmanian workers are not eligible to claim damages unless they are considered to have suffered more than 30 per cent whole person impairment. "This is a very high threshold to get over, even where the assessment refers to a combination of separate injuries," Mr North said.

Even relatively serious injuries that leave a worker with a very substantial level of permanent disability would not result in an assessment of 30 per cent whole person impairment. Tasmanian workers are disadvantaged further compared to those on the mainland as there is no consideration given to how their injury affects the person's lifestyle or career.

"This means that many Tasmanians injured at work, through no fault of their own, are being forced to look elsewhere for financial support, placing undue pressure on their families and the welfare system," Mr North said.

The Law Council believes the threshold is unrealistically high and has urged the State Government to remove it or lower it immediately.

"If the Government refuses to act, a significant number of Tasmanians who suffer injuries arising out of their work will continue to be denied fair compensation – compensation they rightly deserve," Mr North concluded.

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