

State Government's Workers' Compensation Promise a Victory for Tasmanians

One day out from the State election, the legal profession has claimed victory for injured Tasmanian workers.

The Law Council, along with the Law Society of Tasmania and Australian Lawyers Alliance, has been campaigning heavily for fairer compensation for injured Tasmanian workers in the weeks leading up to the election.

Early in the campaign, the Tasmanian Greens publicly promised to remove the unfair 30 per cent Whole Person Impairment threshold and introduce a fairer test to assess the effect of the injury on the individual worker.

Now the State Government has given a commitment to the Law Society of Tasmania that, if re-elected, it would make the issue of ensuring the State has the best possible workers' compensation system a "priority for the next term".

Law Council President John North said, "The Greens announcement was positive indeed. This move by the State Government is an acknowledgment that Tasmania's workers' compensation laws are unfair and need an overhaul."

Labor has promised a formal review of the workers' compensation system, including an analysis of the 30 per cent threshold. It has vowed to establish this review within the first three months of the next parliamentary term.

Law Society of Tasmania President Leanne Topfer was encouraged by the earlier Greens policy and has welcomed the Government's commitment. "We hope that in addition to the Government looking at the 30 per cent threshold, it will also consider introducing the subjective test adopted by the Greens."

"This latest development is great news for Tasmanian workers, who are a step closer to seeing fairness restored to what is currently draconian legislation," Ms Topfer concluded.

Media Contact: Elenore Eriksson,
Director Public Affairs - 02 6246 3716/0419 269 855

www.lawcouncil.asn.au

The Law Council of Australia exists to represent the legal profession at the national level, to speak on behalf of its constituent bodies on national issues, and to promote the administration of justice, access to justice and general improvement of the law.