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Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
Minister for the Environment and Climate Change

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25 SEP 2026

Ms Ella Haddad MP
Labor Member for Clark

By email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms ~~Haddad~~, *Ella*

Constituency Question – Workers Compensation

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 11 August 2026 to the Treasurer. As the Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs. I provide the following information:

Question

My question is from Sam of Mount Stuart. Sam has made a worker's compensation claim for psychological harm that he suffered from an accident at work. Sam heard the Treasurer's Budget speech where he said that psychological injury claims were contributing disproportionately to workers compensation liabilities. The Treasurer said that 'legislative review is clearly needed'. Sam is concerned that the government intends to reduce the benefits, protections or other entitlements available to injured workers in order to cut costs. Can the Treasurer explain to Sam precisely what changes the government is considering through its proposed legislative review of workers compensation, whether this review has already started and how Sam can contribute? And can he guarantee that Sam's workers compensation entitlements and those of other Tasmanians injured at work will not be reduced?

Response

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, Sam, regarding workers compensation and comments made by the Treasurer in the 2026-27 Budget Speech.

The Government is committed to preventing workplace injury and illness, supporting workers who are injured, and ensuring Tasmania's workers compensation scheme remains fair, effective and sustainable for workers and employers alike.

As noted in response to your motion in parliament, workers compensation schemes across Australia are experiencing increasing pressures, including rising claim costs, greater claim complexity and growth in psychological injury claims. These are challenges being experienced across multiple jurisdictions and have prompted significant reforms by Labor Governments in New South Wales and Victoria.

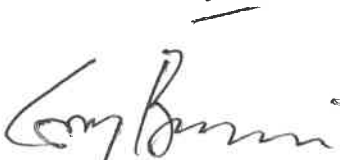
As you are aware, the independent WorkCover Tasmania Board are currently undertaking a review of the workers rehabilitation and compensation Scheme. I understand the Board is currently consulting on the proposed scope and terms of reference for that review. This consultation process provides an opportunity for workers, employers, unions, industry groups and individuals with lived experience, including your constituent, to provide feedback on the issues they believe should be considered.

Any future consideration of legislative reform will be informed by the findings of that independent review, stakeholder consultation and a careful assessment of the evidence. It would therefore be premature to speculate on any potential recommendations or outcomes while that process is underway.

The Government's focus remains on supporting injured workers, preventing workplace injury and illness wherever possible, and ensuring Tasmania's workers compensation scheme continues to operate in a fair and sustainable manner for the benefit of current and future participants.

Thank you for raising this matter on behalf of your constituent.

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP

Deputy Premier

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