

**AGREEMENT BY THE STATES AND TERRITORIES  
ON  
HARMONISATION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION AND OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS**

**Harmonisation of Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Arrangements**

1. State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers recognise the importance of workers compensation and occupational health and safety arrangements for employers and employees across Australia and have agreed on the importance of harmonising key elements of their schemes.
2. This agreement is based on a previous agreement between Victoria and New South Wales to implement a ten-point action plan to harmonise their WorkCover schemes.
3. States and Territories agree to, where feasible:
  - Develop uniform WorkCover claim and premium forms with common and more efficient lodgement processes.
  - Develop common administrative processes for premium payments and payroll declaration including payment plan options.
  - Establish 'one-stop shops' within each WorkCover Insurance Agent to service multi-state employers. Account managers will provide a single point of entry for common claims and premium estimation reports, and resolving queries.
  - Implement new 'mutual recognition' rules to enable return to work co-ordinators to work across States when supporting injured workers.
  - Implement new mutual recognition arrangements for construction induction cards issued in both States and adoption of the national training agenda for OHS induction training for the construction industry.
  - Implement mutual recognition of plant and machinery and a uniform system of accreditation of verifiers of pieces of plant and machinery.
  - Align regulatory approaches in domestic construction industry in collaboration with employers and unions.
  - Share advertising campaigns focussed on improving safety at work.
  - Use common guidance material for employers to help improve workplace safety and compliance with workers compensation.
  - In line with the work of the Heads of Workers Compensation Authorities, implement a common 'gateway' analysis for employers applying for self-insurance, including the development of uniform financial indicators and a common audit tool to assess safety performance.
4. Where workers compensation insurance is privately underwritten and a jurisdiction cannot commit their insurers to implement parts of the plan, the jurisdiction commits to those items that they can implement and to working with insurers to implement the intent of the remaining items so far as is practicable.
5. States and territories agree that the Council for the Australian Federation will give further consideration to the harmonisation of enforcement, compliance and administrative arrangements of workers compensation and occupational health and safety schemes.
6. States and Territories agree to establish one or more inter-jurisdictional working groups which will meet regularly to ensure efficient implementation of the actions, and to identify further opportunities to reduce the administrative

workload of multi-state employers. The working groups will seek to co-ordinate their work with relevant initiatives of the Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities, Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities and the Australian Safety and Compensation Council.

### **Further Work Program on Harmonisation**

State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed to complete initial work within six months on harmonisation of the regulatory regimes for teacher registration, administration of payroll tax, and other aspects of the administration of occupational health and safety and workers compensation schemes.

### **Signed for and on behalf of each of the parties by:**

The Honourable Morris Iemma MP )  
**Premier of New South Wales** )

The Honourable Steve Bracks MP )  
**Premier of Victoria** )

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP )  
**Premier of Queensland** )

The Honourable Alan Carpenter MLA )  
**Premier of Western Australia** )

The Honourable Mike Rann MP )  
**Premier of South Australia** )

The Honourable Paul Lennon MHA )  
**Premier of Tasmania** )

Jonathan Donald Stanhope MLA )  
**Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory** )

The Honourable Clare Martin MLA )  
**Chief Minister of the Northern Territory** )

13 October 2006

